



# MANOR COURT Community Primary School

*incorporating Manor Court Early Years Centre*

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset TA20 2ES

Telephone 01460 62350 • email [sch.091@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.091@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

[manorcourtschool.sch.co.uk](http://manorcourtschool.sch.co.uk) • twitter [@ManorCourtChard](https://twitter.com/ManorCourtChard)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent and Carer,

## Outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Manor Court Primary School on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019

As you know, Ofsted completed an inspection of Manor Court Primary School prior to the Christmas holiday. Much work has been completed since the previous inspection in 2017 and we are delighted to inform you that Manor Court Primary School has been judged to be a **Good school**. This is the first time that the school has received an overall judgment higher than 'Satisfactory' or 'Requiring Improvement' in an Ofsted inspection since 1999. A full copy of the report can be found on the school website and will be published on Ofsted's website within the next week.

The three inspectors were extremely complimentary of the children and staff who attend and work in our school. The Lead Inspector was very clear with Mr. Talmage, Mr. Clode and Mrs. Bernie Green (CEO of Preston Primary Academy Trust) in the feedback meeting, that Manor Court is a solid 'Good' and the only thing that prevented Manor Court from being judged as even better than this, was the speed of the improvement since April 2017. More time to ensure that sustained and continuous improvement is evidenced for a longer period of time is required. This will be accomplished by the time of our next inspection in three or four year's time.

The structure of a formal Ofsted report changed in September 2019 and is more succinct, consisting of only seven pages. The report comments in detail on four areas:

1. What is it like to attend this school?
2. What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?
3. Safeguarding.
4. What does the school need to do to improve?

### What did Ofsted state that it is like to attend Manor Court Primary School?

Below is the full statement about Manor Court Primary School, in this section of the final report.

*Manor Court pupils develop as well-rounded individuals because of the school's broad curriculum. Leaders have the highest of expectations for all pupils. They leave nothing to chance in ensuring that the curriculum arouses pupils' interest and widens their view of the world. Teachers plan experiences that inspire awe, teach new skills and help pupils to have fun safely. Pupils quote stargazing, learning to knit and 'water fights' as some of the most memorable.*

*The number and range of clubs on offer are extensive. Every parent who responded to Parent View was positive about what the school offers pupils through sport, art and musical opportunities. Leaders make sure that pupils take part and make the most of their time in school.*

*Pupils concentrate in class and their workbooks are well presented. They play together on the playground safely. Pupils say the school treats bullying seriously if it occurs and quickly put a stop to it. Pupils treat staff with respect and feel they can approach them with a problem. One pupil, expressing the views of many, said, 'They look after us here.'*

## ASPIRE

Ambition • Sincerity • Positivity • Integrity • Respect • Empathy

### What does Ofsted believe that Manor Court Primary School does well and what do we need to do better?

In the final report, nine paragraphs were written to describe the school's strengths and areas for further improvement. These are as follows:

1. *Leaders aim high in what they want pupils to know by the time that they leave the school. Their curriculum plans are ambitious.*
2. *Leaders are determined that all pupils should read well. Pupils quickly learn phonics and almost all read age appropriate books fluently. Leaders expect staff to read with every pupil regularly and those that have fallen behind are catching up and is helping those with special educational needs and or disabilities.*
3. *Pupils write well for a wide range of purposes. Their handwriting is fluent and so they get their ideas down on paper quickly. Pupils practice spellings and learn grammar to improve their writing. However, they have not yet been expected to remember as much as they could.*
4. *Pupils say the school wants them to be ambitious and good role models for others. They know that this means hard work but that teachers will help them to 'get there'. Older pupils have roles of considerable responsibility; Well-being councilors, sports leaders and eco-councilors take their work seriously.*
5. *Pupils with SEND are supported in class by skilled teaching assistants. Sharp targets are set for each pupil and leaders check that additional chances to learn are helping pupils to catch up.*
6. *Children in the three early years' classes follow well-established routines. Staff plan activities that deepen children's understanding of both their own world and the wider world. However, not all of the school's curricular plans recognise how much children know when they join Year 1.*
7. *Children in the early years are introduced to books through visits to the town's library. They are taught to use phonic sounds to read and write. They say the sounds over and over to themselves until they have mastered the spelling. Staff expect children to be independent and persevere.*

### Safeguarding

Ofsted acknowledge that the safeguarding of all children who attend Manor Court is the priority of the school and is extremely effective. The safeguarding committee led by Mr. Clode (Designated Safeguard Lead) and consisting of Mr. Talmage (Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead), Miss Gregory (Deputy Designated Safeguard lead), Miss Hamilton from the EYC and the local governing body, have trained staff to ensure that they can spot when children are at risk. Ofsted highlight that our local knowledge of the issues within our town enables us to respond appropriately and quickly to keep all children safe.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

The inspection team set four areas in which they believed should be addressed to make further improvement. Three of the four areas of improvement have been taken directly from our school development plan and will be completed by the end of the academic year; work has started on their completion already.

The fourth development point listed below, is one that's relevance to the school is debatable and is based on the inspections team philosophy of education. As a school community, we will address this as and when appropriate for our children.

1. Teachers do not implement the school's ambitious plans sufficiently well in all subjects. Leaders should continue to review the impact of the curriculum to ensure that it is leading to pupils knowing and remembering more, particularly in science and geography.
2. Leaders in the foundation subjects do not have a clear picture of pupil's starting point in Year 1. Their curricular plans should take account of the wide knowledge of the world which children gain in the early years.
3. Reading books do not provide enough challenge in key stage 2, particularly for the most-able pupils. Leaders should ensure that pupils are exposed to reading materials which challenges them and builds their stamina. They should ensure that pupils are exposed to the best that has been written.
4. Some pupils rely too heavily on prompts to help them write accurately. In order to support pupils in their future learning, teachers should ensure that their teaching gives pupils the security in spelling and grammar that they should have.

We are pleased with the outcome of this inspection and the official acknowledgement that Manor Court Primary School provides an excellent education for the children who attend the school. We will continue to work hard to ensure that further improvements are made, for all current and future children.

Please feel free to share the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. L Talmage  
Head Teacher



Mr. A Clode  
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion Leader