

School receives 'good' mark from Ofsted

BY ANGELA FERGUSON

A PRIMARY school previously put in special measures by Ofsted has moved up to a 'good' rating.

Ofsted inspectors found Eaton Primary School in Tarporley to be a place where 'pupils flourish' and 'have a thirst for learning'.

The news means that the school, which was put into special measures when last inspected in 2019, has moved from being in the bottom five per cent of schools nationally for results, to being in the top 20 per cent.

School leaders have described this as a 'huge achievement'.

Eaton Primary School became an academy school in December 2020 and this is the school's first Ofsted rating since this happened.

Ofsted inspectors visited on November 21 and 22, with the 'good' rating applying across the board, including overall effectiveness, quality of educa-

tion, behaviour and attitudes and leadership and management.

A school spokesperson said Ofsted inspectors and the Regional School commissioner's office have commented on the unusually rapid progress of moving up two inspection grades.

In their report, the inspectors say: "Pupils flourish at this school. They feel happy in the knowledge that they are cared for and celebrated for their individual qualities. Pupils said that the best part of school is being with their friends and the staff."

"Everyone is welcome here, regardless of any differences that they may have found that."

The report also states: "Pupils have a thirst for learning. The school recognises this and provides a broad range of opportunities to enhance pupils' interests. For instance, it arranges for local historians to speak to pupils."

The report also commented on the high-quality curriculum, the happy

and polite children and the wide ranging extra-curricular opportunities, ranging from knitting and yoga to a choir.

School headteacher Lorraine Skellon said: "I am delighted with the outcome of the inspection and that the hard work and dedication of our wonderful pupils and staff, with support from parents, governors and trustees, has been recognised by Ofsted. We want to make sure that all our pupils are happy and receive the best possible education."

"I am pleased Ofsted can see how the whole school community has worked together and the positive impact we are having. We look forward to building upon this."

"The report recognises the high quality of education that the children have had over a number of years."

Eaton Primary, which has 151 pupils on its roll, is part of the Sandstone Trust, along with Tarporley High School, Tarvin Primary School and

● Eaton Primary School is celebrating being declared a 'Good' school by Ofsted

Weaverham High School.

During the visit, Ofsted reviewed the school's strengths and areas of development, talking to pupils, staff, governors and trustees.

Responding to the report, the CEO of the Sandstone Trust, Jason Lowe, said: "This is a great achievement, particularly given the challenges of recent years, and it is testament to the hard work of the leadership team, the staff and the whole school community. We know children thrive at Eaton Primary School and Ofsted agree with us."

A school spokesperson said many of the school's pupils reside outside of Eaton and travel the short distance from Winsford, Tarporley and surrounding villages - with parents appreciating the small, single aged classes.

Ofsted inspectors conducted detailed reviews of early reading, English, mathematics, history and personal development. They also inspected the



● Lorraine Skellon, Head of School, is pictured with some of the children

curriculum and outcomes across all subjects.

The school's approach to early learning was praised, as was their success in developing children's reading. Inspectors also acknowledged pupils' personal development as a vital part of the school's work.

They praised pupils' conduct, saying: "Pupils are polite and helpful. They make the extra effort

to have pleasant conversations with others."

Two areas flagged up as needing improvement included providing more opportunities for pupils in a small number of subjects to revisit prior learning.

The report, written by lead inspector Sheena Clark and inspector Amanda Edwards, adds: "Assessment strategies are still being developed in a

small number of subjects. This means that teachers sometimes do not have sufficient assessment information to address the gaps in pupils' learning."

"The school should refine its approaches to checking on pupils' learning to ensure that teachers have the information that they need to help pupils to learn and remember the curriculum well."

Regional award boost for spa

CHESHIRE'S The Spa at Carden has been crowned 'Best Spa in the Northwest' by the Good Spa Guide.

The ceremony took place at the Sanderson London where the winners were announced for all the regional categories.

Running against finalists The Woodland Spa and The Spa at Manor House Alsager, also based in Cheshire, The Spa at Carden was victorious.

Judges said: "Drawing inspiration from the tranquil 1,000-acre Carden Park estate on which it sits, The Spa at Carden has carefully curated a range of treatments using natural botanicals to improve wellbeing in a separate wood and glass building."

Emma Pridding, Spa Director at The Spa at Carden, said: "We are absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive the prestigious Best Spa in the North West award from the Good Spa Guide 2023."

"This achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our incredible team and our commitment to providing an unparalleled spa experience for our guests."

"We strive to create a haven of tranquillity and rejuvenation at Carden Park Hotel, and this recognition is a proud validation of our efforts."

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Good Spa Guide for this esteemed accolade and look forward to continuing to exceed expectations in delivering exceptional wellness experiences."

Offering a directory of the best spas in the UK and Ireland, The Good Spa Guide provides in-depth reviews on some of the best spas in the country.

The company also operates the trademarked bubble rating system, which is said to be the UK's only national spa rating system.



● Emma Pridding, Spa Director at Carden Park (left) and Rachel Nicholls, Head Spa Therapist at Carden Park (centre) with Rebecca Holmes, National Partnerships Manager at Good Spa Guide



● The Spa at Carden

Itsmelouis Photography

New plans for ex-care home site green light

BY GARY PORTER

PLANS to knock down a former care home building destroyed by arsonists and replace it with a new residential facility for adults with learning difficulties have been given the green light.

The proposed development at The Croft care home on Mill Lane in Great Sutton was rubber-stamped by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The current building will now be knocked down and replaced with a new build residential development comprising six one-bedroom flats for adults with learning difficulties.

Applicant Parag Majithia also intends to

provide accommodation for support workers.

Five car parking spaces would be provided, along with six cycling spaces.

According to the application, submitted on his behalf, the vacant building was 'destroyed by arsonists and can no longer be retained'.

Cheshire Live reported back in the summer of 2022 that a disused building on Mill Lane had been targeted by arsonists.

There had previously been plans to extend and convert the existing care home building, but unfortunately the arson attack on the property put paid to it, resulting in the new build proposal.



● The vacant former Croft care home in Great Sutton
Image: Planning application