



PRESS RELEASE:

Ofsted Outstanding at Cherry Orchard Primary Academy, Ebbsfleet Garden City, Kent

Trustees and staff at [Cherry Orchard Primary Academy](#) - the first of the new schools to open on the [Ebbsfleet Garden City](#) development in September 2017 - were delighted to receive an overall grade of Outstanding at their recent Ofsted inspection in November 2021, having been evaluated as outstanding in each of the five areas of inspection, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision. Cherry Orchard is part of the [Leigh Academies Trust](#) which encompasses 31 primary, secondary and special academies across Kent, Medway and South East London

Inspectors particularly highlighted that *'the boundless ambition from everyone at Cherry Orchard is infectious'* as *'staff are united in striving for the best education for every child.'* They were particularly impressed with the curriculum which is underpinned by the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme and *"enables pupils to acquire a first rate body of knowledge and skills to develop them into inquisitive, global citizens.'*

Inspectors found behaviour to be *'exemplary and pupils are highly motivated to learn'* across the school. *'Pupils' development, beyond academic subjects, is first class'* recognising the *'notable experiences the Academy provides are no bolt on, but instead are intricately woven into the curriculum'*. This approach is adopted right the way through the school from early years to Yr 6 *'ensuring pupils are well prepared for the next chapter of their lives.'*

Inspectors evidenced that *'staff are extensively well-trained to teach pupils to read'* as the Academy believes that *'every child must be taught to read well'* to meet the aims of the curriculum. This is evident from Nursery to Year 6 through the school's *'highly effective and systematic approach to phonics'* and it was agreed *'this approach works exceptionally well.'*

The Academy's Principal, Julie Forsythe, who has led the academy since its opening, was delighted with the report as it underpins her vision for the school of ***'Establishing strong roots, developing global citizens'***. "This report validates the hard work and commitment of all staff and pupils at Cherry Orchard and recognises the sense of community we have built since our opening in 2017 " she said. "I am particularly proud and pleased that the Inspectors noted that *'everywhere you go, pupils smile'* and commented that *'kindness that flows between staff and pupils'*."

Read the full report [here](#).

About us

Leigh Academies Trust is a non-profit making charitable company, based in Strood, Medway. The Trust exists to support and assist schools to build upon their existing strengths and to help them achieve educational improvements in order to positively shape the lives of our students and the communities we serve. We now operate 31 academies along the South Thames Corridor, structured into 4 clusters. Our clusters contain all phases of education, from nursery to post-16. Each one has a passionate commitment to inclusion. The Trust was formed in 2008 with the linking of the Leigh Technology Academy and Longfield Academy under one governing body. It now encompasses 20,000 students between the ages of 2 and 19 and we employ over 2,500 staff across the South East. For more information go to <http://www.leighacademiestrust.org.uk/>