

Ofsted Action Plan

April 2022



ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following publication of Forest Hill School's Ofsted report in February 2022, I promised that I would provide parents with a termly update on our school action plan in clear, understandable layperson's language.

What you see in the pages which follow is the Spring Term update. We have taken the three areas for improvement identified in the report and listed the actions we are taking to address them (which can be found in a more detailed form in the School Improvement Plan [SIP]) along with things you can expect to see as a parent as a result. We are firmly committed to ensuring that progress in the areas for improvement is clear for all to see, and that we are seeking advice and expertise from external experts wherever possible in order to do this.

We will receive a monitoring visit from Ofsted sometime in the next academic year. This is not a full inspection in which gradings for the school will change, but rather a short check on progress in the three areas for improvement. The inspector who visits will write to parents to share their findings and so this, along with our termly updates, should give you a clear idea of how things are going.

I encourage you to read this document carefully in order to fully appreciate the work which is going on in school, and to contact us if you require any further information.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Sullivan', with a cursive style.

Michael Sullivan
Headteacher

1. Quality of Education

What Ofsted said:

The quality of education is inconsistent. Some subjects, such as mathematics, PE, and design and technology, are not planned well enough or are heavily focused on examination technique. In science, teaching is not sufficiently ambitious. Senior leaders should make sure that all subjects are consistently well planned and taught so that pupils' learning across the curriculum is deep and secure.*

What the school is doing:

- We have implemented shared lesson structures across the school. Every lesson starts and ends with an intro and exit slide to help develop memory recall. Every lesson also includes a period of silent independent work.
- We are reviewing the content of each subject, using both internal and external reviewers, to ensure that each subject fully covers the national curriculum and is ambitious in what is being taught.
- We are carrying out a rigorous monitoring programme every half term to ensure that both what is being taught, and how it is being taught, is of the highest quality.

What you will see as a parent:

- Your child will feel more confident in what they can remember from each of their lessons
- Your child will report a more consistent approach to teaching and learning in lessons
- Your child's independent learning skills should improve
- Your child's lessons will closely follow the more detailed Curriculum Maps that are available on the school website (<https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/subjects/>)

*The curriculum is defined as: *what is taught in a given subject.*

2. SEND Support

What Ofsted said:

Although pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) follow the same curriculum as others, they are not supported well enough in class, and teaching is not sufficiently adapted to help them learn well. Leaders and governors should ensure that support for these pupils is strengthened across the curriculum.

What the school is doing:

- We are conducting an external audit (with Lewisham Council) of our SEND offer to help us fully understand the current strengths and weaknesses of our provision.
- We are providing more specialist SEND training for all staff.
- We are making sure that every teacher knows and understands the SEND needs of every child they teach.
- We are ensuring that all teachers know the best way to help SEND students access the learning and to make progress in their lessons.

What you will see as a parent:

- Your child should feel that his teachers have a better understanding of how to meet his needs.
- You will feel more confident that your son's needs are being met when speaking to teachers and viewing his reports
- Your child should feel happier at school and make greater progress.
- You can view the school's clear strategy about what we are doing to improve SEND provision in the School Improvement Plan (<https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/school-improvement-plan/>)

3. Behaviour

What Ofsted said:

Despite recent changes to the school's behaviour policy and a reduction in recorded incidents of misbehaviour, teachers' expectations in the classroom remain inconsistent. This leads to low-level disruption, which, in turn, is sometimes unchallenged and disrupts learning in lessons. Leaders should ensure that the school's behaviour policy is applied consistently by all staff, both in lessons and around the school.

What the school is doing:

- We are working with external consultants, partner schools and the Department for Education to build upon best practice within the school.
- We have simplified our behaviour policy so that our rules, routines and expectations are easy to understand and apply.
- We continue to provide regular behaviour training for staff and regular reminders for students so that everyone is clear about our systems, rules and expectations.
- We will continue to monitor the consistent implementation of our policy and provide additional training and support for staff and students who may be finding it harder to adapt.

What you will see as a parent:

- A new shorter and clearer behaviour policy on our website (<https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/school-policies/>).
- Your child will report of consistently high expectations from all teachers.
- Your child will experience a consistently calm and orderly learning environment.

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