



# Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Mrs R Hibell – Headteacher

Tel: (01684) 573620

Email: [office@madresfield.dowmat.education](mailto:office@madresfield.dowmat.education)



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

## Ofsted Inspection Framework

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You may be aware that Ofsted introduced its new inspection framework in November 2025. As we will be due our Ofsted visit during next academic year, I wanted to ensure that you are all aware of the changes and the report cards that now exist.

Inspections now look at specific areas and assign a grading to them. The areas are:

- Inclusion
- Curriculum and teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Leadership and governance

Additionally safeguarding will be judged as either being met or not met.

The framework provides schools with a new report card that has a 5-point scale, instead of the previous single overall grading. The new gradings are:

- Exceptional
- Strong Standard
- Expected Standard
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement

Ofsted have been very clear to point out that you cannot compare the old judgements with the new grades e.g. the old judgement of 'Requires Improvement' does not mean the same as the new grade of 'Needs Attention' and the old judgement of 'Outstanding' is not the same as the new grade of 'Exceptional'.

Ofsted have stated that 'Needs Attention' should be seen by a school as advisory, suggesting that work needs to be done to reach the Expected Standard in that area. It is not a fail, but it highlights where issues can be addressed before they become bigger problems where they may need urgent improvement.





# Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Mrs R Hibell – Headteacher

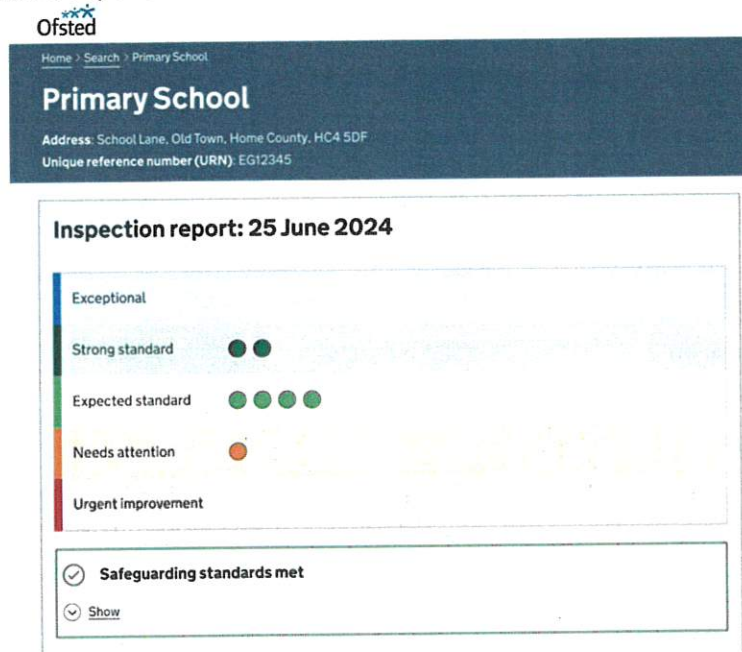
Tel: (01684) 573620

Email: [office@madresfield.dowmat.education](mailto:office@madresfield.dowmat.education)



Ofsted continue to have high expectations. When evaluating schools, using the new Ofsted Toolkit, Ofsted are expecting most schools to be graded at the 'Expected Standard' which means that the school is providing an effective education for its pupils and doing everything it should be doing in that area. Some schools may have areas graded at the 'Strong Standard' and Ofsted expect that very few schools will be graded as 'Exceptional' in an area.

Here is an example of what a report card will look like:



What these ratings mean:

**Exceptional** ● Practice is exceptional: of the highest standard nationally. Other schools can learn from it.

**Strong standard** ● The school reaches a strong standard. Leaders are working above the standards expected of them.

**Expected standard** ● The school is fulfilling the expected standard of education and/or care. This means they are following the standards set out in statutory and non-statutory legislation and the professional standards expected of them.

**Needs attention** ● The expected standards are not met but leaders are likely able to make the necessary improvements.

**Urgent improvement** ● The school needs to make urgent improvements to provide the expected standard of education and/or care.





# Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Mrs R Hibell – Headteacher

Tel: (01684) 573620

Email: [office@madresfield.dowmat.education](mailto:office@madresfield.dowmat.education)



More information about the Ofsted framework can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-ofsted-report-cards-and-grades>

If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are very proud of our school and what we provide for our pupils. We look forward to celebrating our achievements with Ofsted and confirming our areas for improvement. DOWMAT have already started using the framework as a focus for their visits to our school, so we will be well prepared when the time comes for Ofsted to visit. Thank you for your continued support, especially your support with attendance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Hibell'.

Mrs Hibell  
Headteacher



