

6 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We first started the work to create Appleton Academy in 2008, with the new school opening on 1 September 2009. Whilst the former High Fernley Primary School was a small but successful school, the previous secondary school, Wyke Manor, was starting to improve but had been failing pupils, and the community, for a long time. It was a huge leap of faith for primary children, parents and staff to become part of an 'all through' school and thankfully so many of you supported this move. It has taken a lot of hard work, and a long time (and it has been eventful along the way too), but we are very proud of the supportive and inspirational community we have created during that time. It is an absolute delight for those of us who work with your children to see them grow, from very young children experiencing school for the first time, to confident young adults venturing out into the world.

It is thanks to that hard work of pupils, staff and families, and all of this support and inspiration, that I am delighted to be able to write to you to inform you that we can now officially call ourselves a good school following the Ofsted inspection in November 2021.

A copy of the report is available on the school website, via the link below, or using the links on our Facebook or twitter pages. The report will also be published on the Ofsted website seven days from the date of this letter.

<https://tinyurl.com/3mydz2vv>

The Ofsted inspection reports are much shorter than they used to be, but I am sure you will agree that this is a report that reflects on Appleton Academy very well and is a very enjoyable read, which highlights the fantastic work and progress being made, but also outlines the wonderful environment we have in school.

Following a very in-depth inspection process, the inspectors found the following:

- *'Appleton Academy is an inclusive and friendly school.'*
- *'Overall, pupils are happy at the school; they say that they feel safe.'*
- *'They told us that if bullying happens, it is quickly dealt with by adults.'*
- *'Pupils say that the school has improved, including behaviour. Many parents and staff agree. As one parent, typical of many, commented, 'My child enjoys coming to school and he feels well supported by staff.'*
- *'Leaders have high expectations of pupils. These expectations are evident as you walk around the school.'*
- *'The school is calm and purposeful.'*
- *'Pupils enjoy learning here. As a result, pupils are achieving well in a wide range of subjects.'*
- *'Staff go the extra mile to support pupils' personal development. Pupils 'physical and mental health are well supported by staff.'*
- *'Pupils value the extensive opportunities that the school offers. Pupils willingly take on leadership roles in school.'*
- *'Pupils feel listened to and they are proud of their school.'* *'Leaders encourage pupils to read often.'*



- *They have successfully developed pupils 'love of reading. Pupils spoke enthusiastically about the various authors and poets that come into school. Pupils enjoy reading books in one of the inviting reading areas, including the attractive well-stocked library.'*
- *'Pupils value the wide range of experiences they have in lessons and beyond.'*
- *'There is a strong pastoral team, including a social worker who provides effective support for pupils.'*
- *The pastoral team is tenacious in its work to get the right support for vulnerable pupils and families. As a result, there is strong culture of safeguarding.'*
- *'The trust, governors and senior leaders have a clear vision for the school. They have improved many aspects of the school including the quality of education that pupils receive.'*

The inspection team found the school to be very strongly 'good' in all areas and close to a judgement of outstanding in at least two areas.

While we are very proud of the extraordinary school Appleton Academy has become, and delighted with these judgements following inspection, which highlight the improvements made, I would like to assure you that both the Academy and Exceed Academies Trust will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the school continues to go from strength to strength.

Thank you once again, especially for your support and your positive comments. Appleton is the fantastic school it is thanks to its pupils, families and staff. We can all be proud of our school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Jones'.

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher