



6/6/25

Dear Parents/Carers of Hillcrest Early Years Academy,

I am delighted to share with you the results of our recent Ofsted inspection, which highlights the incredible work taking place at our Academy as we strive to help our pupils Aim High and Achieve.

Over the course of two days, inspectors observed lessons, engaged with staff, pupils, and Trustees, and carefully reviewed lesson plans, pupils' books, parental feedback, and key school documents. Their thorough evaluation provided valuable insights into our school's strengths and identified areas for further development—ensuring that Hillcrest Early Years Academy continues to be the very best it can be.

Alongside the Trustees, I am incredibly proud of the positive feedback received. Inspectors commended the dedication of our leaders and staff, praising our ambitious, well-structured curriculum, which enables pupils to build their knowledge over time. Our inclusive approach ensures that all children, including those with SEND, have equal access to learning opportunities, with 'strong provision in place to support their individual needs.'

Inspectors also highlighted our unwavering commitment to early reading and phonics, recognising our passion for fostering a love of reading among pupils. They noted that children are captivated by highly effective story times and benefit from the expertise of staff in delivering phonics.

We are especially proud of the glowing feedback received for our Early Years Provision, with several aspects being recognised for their exceptional quality. Inspectors praised the rich and engaging learning environment, as well as the high-quality, purposeful interactions from our dedicated staff. They also commended our strong commitment to nurturing children's development, stating that "Early Years staff support the development of children's communication and language skills well."

Our dedicated school staff play a crucial role in fostering a warm, welcoming environment where pupils flourish. Inspectors highlighted the kindness and respect shown by staff, which in turn fosters a positive, respectful culture among pupils. This commitment to high expectations ensures that every child can thrive.



Inspectors also recognised the strong relationships between staff, pupils, and families, noting that "Staff know the pupils and their families well." Their dedication makes our Academy a truly special place for learning and growth.

As an Academy, we have strengthened our expectations around behaviour through the introduction of the Gem Powers, and we are delighted that inspectors acknowledged the positive impact of this initiative. They praised how the school supports pupils' personal development, with children demonstrating a clear understanding of the 'GEM Powers for Life', which encourage values such as respect and supporting others.

Furthermore, inspectors observed how the Gem Project is fully embedded within the school culture, noting that pupils speak confidently about the Gem Powers and how they can earn them. This reinforces the positive ethos we are building, ensuring all children develop values that will benefit them throughout their lives.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to your children, who were recognised during the inspection for their friendliness and politeness, creating an atmosphere of warmth and energy that is palpable to all who enter the Academy. Their enthusiasm and kindness truly embody the values we hold dear.

We also deeply appreciate your feedback through ParentView, which provided valuable insights into your views. Comments such as, "Such an amazing school with lovely and caring staff who go above and beyond for the children" serve as a testament to the dedication of our team and the strong community we have built together.

Your support throughout the inspection and beyond has been invaluable, and we are sincerely grateful for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our passionate staff, wonderful children, and supportive parents, who together make Hillcrest such a special place.

Through determination, collaboration, and a shared vision for success, we have built a foundation of excellence. As we move forward, we remain committed to providing an enriching and inspiring environment where every child can thrive.

On behalf of the staff team, the Board of Members and Trustees, we thank you for your unwavering support of our Academy.

Mr L Commander  
Acting Headteacher

Miss S Stokes  
Headteacher

Mrs D Mitchell  
Chair of Trustees