

## Westbourne Academy making positive changes for the future, according to Ofsted report

**A recent Ofsted report has shown that Westbourne Academy in Ipswich is making positive changes for the future following a visit by inspectors in November 2016.**

Westbourne Academy, part of the Academy Transformation Trust (ATT) family, was praised for its refreshed values, known as the 'Westbourne Way', which have had a great impact in creating the calm and purposeful atmosphere now present in the school. The report states that "pupils, staff and parents [have] acknowledged the positive changes that have taken place since the previous inspection."



Behaviour of pupils is described as good, and inspectors report that behaviour has improved significantly because of the Principal's "clear vision and insistence on high standards" developing pupils that are now "proud to be part of the school". Inspectors say that pupils "behave appropriately and are keen to learn" and report that pupils themselves say that behaviour has improved considerably over time. Examples of good behaviour highlighted by inspectors include pupils moving in "a calm and orderly way" and pupils' interaction with adults and peers being "polite, respectful and helpful".

Principal Garry Trott, who joined the academy in September 2014, was praised for his leadership which is "changing the culture of the school [and] starting to make a positive difference to the provision for pupils" and for driving improvements in "both the ethos and culture" which is building solid foundations for the future of the academy.

Improvements in Westbourne Academy's curriculum were recognised, with Inspectors stating that "pupils now access pathways that are far more suitable to their aspirations and abilities" and that, particularly for lower-attaining pupils and those with special educational needs, this curriculum will help them "achieve higher standards in the future". The positive impact which the academy has in preparing pupils for life beyond school was commended with investment in careers advice, establishing positive links with local post-16 providers and skills development attributing to "a far higher proportion of pupils, significantly above the national average, now moving on to employment or higher education."

Westbourne Academy's approach to support helps pupils to become "good citizens in modern Britain" according to Inspectors. Heavy investment in pastoral systems such as the vertical tutoring system was noted by Inspectors who emphasised an environment of competition and community spirit in which "pupils revel" and approaches such as paired reading which "effectively enhance pupils' social and moral development". Overall, the changes have created a culture where pupils "are no longer embarrassed to do well" and "a community atmosphere... where differences are celebrated."

Academy Transformation Trust's support for the academy's Governance was praised with Inspectors saying that "the local governing body and trust work together effectively". Governors were assessed as having "a range of expertise and skills", and an attitude which actively seeks to enhance their understanding which is used to "challenge leaders over the quality of the provision in the school, especially through the progress board."

Garry Trott, Principal at Westbourne Academy commented: "We are pleased that the inspection team have acknowledged a range of positive developments that have taken place at the academy. We know that there is still more to do and we are determined that our relentless focus on improvement will continue."

Ian Cleland, CEO at Academy Transformation Trust commented: "Westbourne Academy, under the leadership of Garry Trott, has made significant improvements since the last inspection. The academy already fulfills several of the criteria for the category of Good under Ofsted."