

# Inspection of Glebelands School

Parsonage Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7AN

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Inspection dates: 21 and 22 March 2023

**Overall effectiveness** **Good**

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The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Previous inspection grade **Good**

## **What is it like to attend this school?**

Pupils benefit from a very well-planned, broad and aspirational curriculum that helps them to learn well and prepares them for success in their next steps. Pupils appreciate the range of learning they have. They enjoy coming to school and display positive attitudes in lessons and around the school. They relish the wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities on offer and are proud of the new interests and skills they are supported to develop.

Pupils feel safe because of carefully considered safeguarding arrangements and the 'Learning for Life' pastoral curriculum. This successfully promotes pupils' well-being and helps to create a community where respect for others, including those who hold different opinions and beliefs, is embedded. Pupils show courtesy and consideration for each other, and bullying is rare. If it does occur, pupils are confident that staff address it quickly and successfully.

Pupils also appreciate the strong local links with other secondary schools and the sixth-form college. They like the mentoring opportunities and can see how these help them to consider their options and be ambitious. Leaders aim to widen horizons for all, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), through cultural trips and careers education.

## **What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?**

Leaders and governors have high ambition for all pupils and have created a well-designed curriculum overall. Leaders have worked to ensure that all staff have the knowledge to deliver this effectively so that pupils achieve well in examinations. Leaders ensure that the scope of the curriculum meets the needs and aspirations of all groups of pupils well. This includes those with SEND. These pupils achieve as well as their peers. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) ensures that staff know pupils with SEND and their needs well. Staff understand and cater for all pupils. For example, they make adaptations to activities so that pupils with SEND make secure progress through the planned curriculum. The SENCo keeps a close eye on how pupils are doing and supports staff as needed.

Teachers check carefully on how well pupils understand and remember their learning. In most subject areas, staff use this information very effectively and help pupils to fill any gaps in knowledge. The painstaking attention that leaders have paid to sequencing learning in the majority of subject areas supports staff well to do this work. Where this curriculum thinking is embedded, pupils learn well and can see how their knowledge develops over time. Leaders know where this work is still to be strengthened.

Leaders take appropriate steps to identify and support pupils joining the school who have fallen behind with their reading. This work helps pupils to become confident

and fluent readers who can access the whole curriculum. Leaders have prioritised reading. They have ensured that the school's Learning Resource Centre has engaging and inspiring books that help to promote a love of reading through the school.

Staff prepare pupils carefully for transition to their post-16 courses, whether A levels, vocational courses or apprenticeships. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 have useful careers advice, information and guidance, with a range of events that help them understand their options. However, these opportunities do not extend to pupils in the lower year groups. Leaders acknowledge this gap in provision. They have plans in place to remedy this rapidly.

The 'Learning for Life' curriculum, along with well-planned assemblies, tutor group and enrichment programmes, ensures pupils' wider development. Pupils enjoy the rich opportunities to consider important topics, including equality of opportunity and understanding and tolerance of the beliefs of others. They are proud of the inclusive nature of their school.

Leaders know the school well and have well-considered plans for further improvement. Staff feel valued by leaders and supported with workload. They believe leaders protect them from bullying and harassment. Governors build their knowledge of the school through regular visits and dialogue, as well as through specific links with school and subject leaders.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have established clear procedures to ensure that all staff know how to identify safeguarding issues and report them swiftly. This culture of safeguarding means that pupils are helped effectively and that concerns are appropriately managed.

Leaders work well with external agencies and follow up all work carefully. They make sure that pupils and families get the help they may need. The single central record is efficiently maintained, and safer recruitment practices are followed meticulously. Experienced designated safeguarding leads understand their roles and responsibilities well.

Pupils are taught how to recognise risk. They are confident to report any worries and know that they will receive effective support.

## **What does the school need to do to improve?**

**(Information for the school and appropriate authority)**

- In a minority of subjects, the approach to delivering the agreed curriculum is not yet fully embedded. This hinders the learning of some pupils over time. Leaders should continue their work to ensure that delivery of the whole curriculum is consistently as they intend it to be.
- Pupils in Years 7 to 9 do not receive the careers information they should, especially from different providers. This limits their understanding of the different options available. Leaders must ensure that this requirement is met as set out in the provider access legislation.

## How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

## Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

## School details

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| <b>Unique reference number</b>             | 125259   |
| <b>Local authority</b>                     | Surrey   |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                   | 10256407   |
| <b>Type of school</b>                      | Secondary Comprehensive  |
| <b>School category</b>                     | Community  |
| <b>Age range of pupils</b>                 | 11 to 16   |
| <b>Gender of pupils</b>                    | Mixed  |
| <b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b> | 774  |
| <b>Appropriate authority</b>               | The governing body   |
| <b>Chair of governing body</b>             | Nigel Sanctuary  |
| <b>Headteacher</b>                         | Russell Mitchell   |
| <b>Website</b>                             | <a href="http://www.glebelands.surrey.sch.uk">www.glebelands.surrey.sch.uk</a> |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>         | 28 November 2017, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005                    |

## Information about this school

- The school does not meet the requirements of the provider access legislation, which requires schools to provide pupils in Years 7 to 13 with information and engagement about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- The school uses four registered and three unregistered alternative providers.
- The school works collaboratively with other local schools for the commissioning of alternative provision.

## Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

- Inspectors met with school leaders, governors, a representative of the local authority and the local federation director.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, science, music, geography, history and design and technology. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors also spoke to leaders about the curriculum in some other subjects and reviewed associated documents.
- Inspectors evaluated the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements in the school by speaking with leaders, staff and pupils. The lead inspector met with the designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads to examine their knowledge. During these meetings, the lead inspector scrutinised records and sampled case files to explore how the school identifies and supports pupils at risk of harm. A team inspector examined the school's work to recruit and check on the suitability of staff. Another inspector telephoned the alternative providers to discuss safeguarding and pupils' learning.
- Inspectors took account of the views of parents by considering the responses to the Ofsted Parent View survey. They considered staff views by talking to them individually, in groups and through the online staff questionnaire. They spoke to pupils formally and informally, in groups and around the school, as well as considering the responses to the online pupil questionnaire.

## **Inspection team**

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Charles Joseph, lead inspector | Ofsted Inspector |
| Taj Bhambra                    | Ofsted Inspector |
| Antonia Spinks                 | Ofsted Inspector |
| Harry Kutty                    | Ofsted Inspector |

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