

November, 2023. We have now received the inspection report and I am able to inform you that the school has received a 'good' rating.

The inspectors identified many strengths of the school, along with some areas to improve. Findings are summarised in this letter and you can access the full report on the school website.

The inspectors recognised for themselves the ambitious vision my staff and I have. I am confident that there will be further success in the months and years ahead. This Ofsted rating is a significant step towards achieving this goal in the next chapter of our journey.

We will continue to work hard to improve the school and ensure that we are providing the best possible education for all our pupils.

Yours faithfully,

Summary of key findings

Wickersley School and Sports College is a good school

- Leaders have an ambitious vision for the school.
- The school is well supported by colleagues from The Wickersley Partnership Trust.
- The school has a broad curriculum. All pupils benefit from this, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Pupils are safe. Most pupils told inspectors that they had a trusted adult they would speak to if they were worried about something.
- Leaders have successfully raised expectations for all members of the school community and all pupils behave well.
- The school has designed an appropriate curriculum for all pupils. Leaders have identified the most important knowledge that pupils need to learn in each subject. Teachers help pupils to practise and recall their prior knowledge, skills and vocabulary across most subjects.
- Pupils with SEND are well supported to access the curriculum. This includes those pupils who access their learning in the school's specialist resourced provision.
- The needs of pupils with SEND are identified accurately by staff. Leaders ensure that staff throughout the school understand the individual needs of pupils.
- Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain. They understand the importance of tolerance and respect.
- Pupils throughout school benefit from a highly effective careers programme. They are well prepared for their next steps in education, training or employment.
- Students are positive about their experience in the sixth form. The range of subjects offered is broad and diverse.
- Teachers have strong subject knowledge.
- Students in the sixth form are well supported by a strong pastoral team.
- The personal development curriculum is a strength in the sixth form. Students learn about healthy relationships and staying safe. They are prepared well for adulthood.
- Staff work with sixth form students to explore potential future careers and, according to student interests, apply for university courses or jobs.
- Pupils attend school regularly. Leaders have effective systems to support pupils to improve their attendance.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

In line with our efforts to strive for excellence, there are areas we need to improve further. These include:

- Ensure that pupils' understanding of what they have been taught is checked regularly and purposefully and that this assessment information is used in lessons to inform future teaching.
- Ensure that pupils who have gaps in their phonics knowledge receive support that addresses these gaps and allows them to become fluent and confident readers quickly.