

The Emmbrook School

Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 1JP

Inspection dates

14–16 March 2017

Overall effectiveness	Good
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Good
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	Good
Outcomes for pupils	Good
16 to 19 study programmes	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is a good school

- The headteacher, who joined the school in June, has taken decisive action to raise standards further. He is determined that pupils should achieve outstanding results and his actions to secure this are driving rapid improvements across the school.
- Typically, pupils make good progress and achieve results above their peers nationally at the end of Year 11. Current pupils are on track to achieve the same again this year.
- Groups of pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and disadvantaged pupils, make good progress. The most able pupils achieve well in most subjects but occasionally they are not challenged to achieve quite as much as they could.
- Governors know the school well and provide effective support and challenge to leaders, holding them accountable for raising pupils' progress further.
- The majority of middle leaders successfully drive improvements in their areas. New staff performance processes are helping to hold less effective leaders to account.
- Leaders check teaching and provide useful feedback, so teachers know what they need to do to be even better.
- Persistent absence has been higher than in other schools for a number of years.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced. Pupils develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding well through well-planned opportunities in a range of subjects.
- Teaching is effective and meets pupils' needs well. Lessons are planned at the right level for pupils' differing abilities, and activities are interesting and practical. In science, there are inconsistencies in teachers' practice, so some pupils do not do quite as well.
- Pupils' behaviour is good in lessons and around the school. Pupils are respectful towards adults and work cooperatively with peers. Almost all staff demonstrate high expectations of pupils' behaviour.
- Pupils receive high-quality, relevant and timely guidance about future career and study options. This is a particular strength of the school.
- Provision in the sixth form is good. Academic lessons meet students' needs well and they make good progress. Slight variances in the quality of teaching in some subjects and courses are being tackled.
- Safeguarding is effective. Pupils are kept safe because staff know and fulfil their responsibilities. Almost all parents and pupils comment that pupils feel safe.

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