

PRESS RELEASE

14TH July 2010

Local Lower School judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Cople Lower School has been judged '**Outstanding**' by Ofsted in a recent inspection. This village Lower School, situated just outside Bedford, has seen improvement in its Ofsted status over many years and now has been classed as an 'Outstanding School'. This places the school in the **top 6% of primary schools** in England and Wales.

This is a fantastic result for Cople Lower school and comes as Head Teacher, Joyce Donaldson, retires after 13 years. Teachers, governors, pupils and parents have all worked hard to create a caring, secure and enjoyable learning environment that has now been recognised by Ofsted in an inspection held in June.

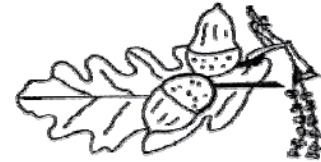
The school is a traditional village school, founded by the Duke of Bedford in 1869, and offers education to pupils of age 4 to 9 years of age. It provides a complete range of learning, social and sports activities and is at the heart of the local community.

The Ofsted inspection report compliments the school in many ways;

'Cople Lower is an outstanding school. Outstanding features are particularly related to care of pupils, how pupils flourish and develop excellent personal and social skills, and the way it engages with parents. Parents are pleased with the work of the school and pupils are proud of their achievements as well as their school. The school turns out well rounded individuals whose behaviour is excellent.'

The Head Teacher leads the school very well and has a clear idea of its strengths and what needs improving.

The school has developed excellent partnerships with others to promote pupils' learning and well-being. This has resulted in an improvement in the curriculum provision which is now outstanding as are pupils' outcomes related to their personal development.'



Cople Lower School

The inspector also commented on how the pupils make an outstanding contribution to the community, including campaigning to reduce the speed limit, and wrote directly to the children saying;

'Thank you for making my visit so enjoyable. I was impressed with how much you have learnt about eating healthily, keeping yourself safe and how you raise funds to help others who are not as fortunate as you are. I think your behaviour is excellent. Your parents think you go to a good school. I disagree. Cople Lower is an outstanding school!'

Cople Lower School serves the village of Cople and the wider community, with pupils coming from across the Bedford area. It caters for pupils of all abilities in three classrooms sited in the original building and modern extensions. With many clubs, sporting activities and a well subscribed Before and After School Club the school provides excellent education for the children of the wider area, and now that education has been classed as uniquely 'Outstanding'.

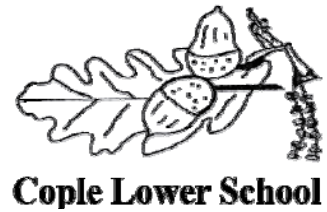
The inspector further commented directly to the children,

- *'You are all very kind and respectful towards each other and the adults who help you.*
- *Teaching is good and results in you learning well.*
- *Teachers plan lots of exciting visits out and invite many interesting visitors into school to make learning even more fun.*
- *The way you are looked after and cared for is outstanding.*
- *By the time you leave in Year 4, most of you reach standards that are above those normally reached by pupils of your ages.*
- *The school is well led and managed.*
- *The before and after club provides good opportunities for you to take part in exciting and well planned activities.'*

This report is a credit to Head Teacher, Joyce Donaldson, and her team. Its timing could not have been better, recognising the 13 years of dedication that Joyce has given to the school, raising standards and leading to a uniquely 'Outstanding' award, possibly her crowning achievement.

A new Head Teacher will take over the reins at Cople Lower School in September and will continue Joyce and her team's fantastic work. The Governors, teachers, pupils and parents of Cople Lower School all wish Joyce well for the future and an enjoyable retirement.

END



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Cople Lower School

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Notes

Additional Comments from the Ofsted Report:

'The curriculum enables pupils to achieve well academically and develop excellent outcomes related to their personal development.'

'There is a high focus, daily, on reading when volunteers come in to hear each child read. As a result, the love of reading and listening to stories is very well developed.'

'Outstanding care ensures that pupils feel comfortable and know that adults are there for them if they have a problem. The strong focus on pupils' personal development means that they receive excellent guidance to develop personally and socially.'

'The extra childcare provision, before and after school, is good and provides a safe environment for pupils to work and play out of school.'

'The headteacher, staff and governors have a clear idea of how the school is doing and are ambitious that the school does not stand still. Everyone works well together and all are fully committed to make improvements where necessary.'

'The Early Years Foundation Stage is well led and managed. Sessions run smoothly because they are well organised and adults have a good idea of how these young children learn.'