

# School has 'ambitious vision', says inspector

A SECONDARY school that serves hundreds of children from Eastville has been praised for its ambitions and expectations for pupils.

Education watchdog Ofsted visited Fairfield High School in Allfoxton Road, Horfield, in February, for the first time in more than five years.

The inspectors said staff were "caring and respectful", pupils were "happy and safe", and parents felt Fairfield was "a nurturing school that prepares pupils to be good citizens".

They said, "Leaders have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and conduct. As a result, the school has a calm and purposeful atmosphere. Staff are quick to challenge any form of disrespectful behaviour or bullying."

"Leaders have an ambitious vision for the quality of education that all pupils receive. They are determined that pupils gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life."

The inspectors said pupils felt they had "a voice in the school" and were given opportunities to show leadership, including a recent campaign to prevent and keep children safe from harmful sexual behaviour.

They added: "Leaders listen to pupils' ideas and act together to tackle this important issue."



Principal Amanda Bridgewater with Assistant Director of Science Anilla Khan and pupils at Fairfield's recent community Iftar event

Ofsted said the curriculum was "carefully planned", enabling pupils to "build successfully on what they already know and can do".

The inspectors said: "Teaching presents new information clearly. Teachers use assessment effectively to remedy pupils' misconceptions and to inform future planning. Teachers have the subject knowledge they need to teach the curriculum well."

The report said pupils who need support to improve their reading were identified

and those with special educational needs or disabilities were well cared for, although they called on the school to improve the curriculum for pupils still in the early stages of learning to read.

Support for pupils' personal development and mental health was highlighted, along with teaching on healthy relationships, careers advice and "meaningful work experience" with a range of employers.

The inspectors said: "Staff are proud to work at the school."

They feel that leaders support their workload and well-being. Local governors know the school well. Their support and challenge to leaders enhance the school's effectiveness."

The report was third in a row to result in a 'good' rating for the school, which has 1,069 pupils aged 11 to 16.

Principal Amanda Bridgewater said: "I am so proud of our whole school community for this wonderful report, which includes so many positive comments."

The inspectors have recognised the unique qualities of our school, where young people are able to thrive in their learning and development because they feel safe, are happy and have confidence in the adults around them."