

Inspection of Wickersley School and Sports College

Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S66 1JL

Inspection dates: 22 and 23 November 2023

The quality of education

Behaviour and attitudes

Personal development

Leadership and management

Sixth-form provision

Previous inspection grade



Leaders at Wickersley School and Sports College recognised that the quality of education that pupils have received in recent years needed to improve. Some pupils have not achieved well in end of key stage assessments. In response to this, the school has implemented plans to address weaknesses in the curriculum. As a result, pupils are now benefiting from a curriculum that is helping them to know and remember more of what they have been taught.

The school has a broad curriculum. All pupils benefit from this, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This offer also extends to pupils who access the school's specialist resource provision, who are supported by well-trained staff. A small number of pupils cannot read fluently when they join the school. Leaders have not ensured that they receive the support to develop their phonics knowledge, to help them catch up quickly enough.

Pupils are safe. Most pupils told inspectors that they had a trusted adult they would speak to if they were worried about something. Pupils say that bullying occasionally happens but are confident that it will be dealt with quickly by staff. The school recognised that they needed to address the behaviour of some pupils after the pandemic. Leaders have successfully raised expectations for all members of the school community and pupils now behave well.

The school has designed an appropriate curriculum for all pupils. Much time has been spent on improving the curriculum in recent years. Leaders have identified the most important knowledge that pupils need to learn in each subject. In most subjects, pupils learn more, do more and remember more over time. Teachers help pupils to practise and recall their prior knowledge, skills and vocabulary across most subjects. In a small number of subjects, certain aspects of the curriculum are new. These changes were made as pupils were not remembering enough of what they had been taught. Leaders are aware that some of these



140646

Rotherham

10266129

Secondary comprehensive

Academy converter

11 to 18

Mixed

Mixed

2,059

354

Board of trustees

Steve Calvert

Tony Hardcastle

www.wickersley.net

Not previously inspected



Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.

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

To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspectors reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils interests first.

Inspectors met with the headteacher, and senior leaders responsible for safeguarding, sixth form, behaviour, attendance and personal development.

Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, mathematics, computing, art and design and geography. For each deep dive, inspectors visited lessons, reviewed curriculum plans and spoke with curriculum leaders and teachers. They also talked to pupils about their learning and looked at the work they have completed.

Inspectors also reviewed curriculum planning in religious education and physical education.

Inspectors met with the special educational needs and disabilities coordinator.



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