



Progress at Abbeywood First School and Church Hill Middle School RSA Academies

The Government has set out the current National Curriculum with the expectation that children will attain the results that match their age, we call this Age Related Expectation (ARE).

This means then, that as children come into school and are working at their ARE, then year on year, pupils will make enough progress to ensure that they are attaining ARE by the end of each year.

In our First School however, most children do not arrive at school developmentally ready to work at ARE. Unlike European children, who usually enter school at the age of 7 years, British children start school at a very young age and so often our children have not yet gained the skills that enable them to learn what the Government deem to be expected for their age.

The school therefore has to make the decision about what is 'good enough progress' over time, in order for children to achieve what they are capable of.

From their starting points, most children will need to make faster progress than that which is expected Nationally in order for them to close the attainment gap. Abbeywood supports pupils to make accelerated progress so that pupils incrementally catch up during their time in the school and indeed many pupils go on to exceed ARE and work at greater depth. The numbers of pupils reaching ARE at KS1 is at least in line with National figures and the number of pupils working at greater depth is higher.

Abbeywood trains pupils to become effective learners and therefore what we agree to be 'good enough' results in outstanding progress over time. For example, the cohort's progress (of matched children) that left the school in July 2019 was as follows:

7% entered Reception in the 30-50 months secure band (all others were below this).

By the end of KS 1:

- 75% achieved ARE+ and 29% achieved Greater Depth in Reading
- 64% achieved ARE+ and 21% achieved Greater Depth in Writing
- 75% achieved ARE+ and 25% achieved Greater Depth in Maths

By the time the pupils left the school at the end of Year 4:

- 79% achieved ARE+ and 37% achieved Greater Depth in Reading
- 68% achieved ARE+ and 23% achieved Greater Depth in Writing
- 75% achieved ARE+ and 43% achieved Greater Depth in Maths

As children enter the Middle School from a variety of First Schools, many still need to close their attainment gap and others are developmentally ready to achieve higher levels.

Therefore, it remains crucial that 'good enough progress' in Church Hill continues to be outstanding over time in order that pupils go on to achieve what they are truly capable of and are ready to gain good GCSE results when they move on to high school in Year 9.

Both schools receive additional funding for pupils who are eligible for free school meals, are 'looked after' or are Service children. The schools use this money in a variety of ways to make a substantial difference to the progress that these pupils make. (See report on Pupil Premium).

It is therefore essential that parents apply for Free School Meals for their children if they feel they are eligible, even if their children qualify for Universal Free School Meals as this will greatly help the work in school.

Deena Frost

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