



Glenfrome
Primary School

What is it like to be a pupil at Glenfrome Primary School?

“Pupils are proud to attend Glenfrome Primary School. They arrive with a smile and benefit from the warmth of welcome they receive from staff. This helps pupils to feel safe and cared for. Across the school, pupils and staff feel a deep sense of belonging.” Ofsted December 2025

Dear Glenfrome Families

As you all know, in December our school became the first in Bristol (that hadn't volunteered for the pilot scheme) to be inspected under the new, more challenging OFSTED framework. We no longer have one overall grade, but a more detailed 'report card', which has been published today.

To be under the microscope during an inspection is always a challenging experience and being one of the first, with the framework only being finalised a few weeks previously, presented unique challenges. We're proud of how our school community responded and want to say a huge thanks to all of 'Team Glenfrome' who truly gave their best during the inspection.

We are also very happy and proud that the inspection celebrated so many of our school's strengths. You will see many positive comments in the report, which noted that parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school, valuing its genuine community atmosphere and the excellent start their children receive. Nearly 200 parents and carers answered the Parent View survey (a huge increase on the last inspection in 2021) and 99% of you said that you would recommend the school to someone else. As one parent eloquently stated in the survey's comments: *"I wouldn't want to send my child to any other school."* This sentiment reflects the deep trust families place in Glenfrome Primary, of which we are always mindful, and it was great that the inspectors recognised this.

In summary, the feedback that the school received confirmed what our Leadership Team, Staff, and Governors already knew about both our strengths and our development priorities. We have lots to celebrate, including the summary of what inspectors said it was like to be a Glenfrome pupil, as you can see above. They also observed that:

"Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and learn without disruption. They are keen to share their ideas and make a positive contribution during class discussions. Behaviour across the school, including during social times, is calm and respectful."

The school received an 'Expected Standard' rating across most areas, and three areas were marked as 'Needs Attention' - Curriculum and Teaching, Achievement, and Leadership and Governance. The infographic at the end of this letter is a helpful way of understanding how these ratings might map onto the old grades used by Ofsted. Importantly, these were areas we had already identified and clear action plans were already in place to address them. (If only Ofsted had waited until the end of this term and not the last!!)

The link to the full report can be found below. This is our summary:

Key Strengths

Inclusive and Caring Environment: The school is praised for its welcoming, inclusive atmosphere where pupils feel valued and safe. Staff know pupils and families well, providing strong pastoral support that helps vulnerable pupils overcome barriers to learning. The resource base ("The Glen") effectively supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Inspiring wonder, developing confidence, celebrating community

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Improved Attendance: Leaders have prioritised attendance improvement through a holistic approach, working closely with families and external professionals. Current attendance and persistent absence rates, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, are improving.

Thriving Early Years: Children in Reception benefit from a clear vision for high-quality education and care. The curriculum effectively addresses gaps in knowledge, with success in developing children's speech, language, and phonics skills. Children settle quickly, enjoy their learning, and are well-prepared for Year 1.

Strong Reading and Mathematics: Recent Year 6 outcomes in reading and mathematics show positive progress. Reading results (85% meeting the expected standard in 2024/25) are now above national average. The early years provision ensures children develop strong phonics knowledge and settle quickly into school life.

Personal Development: The school's personal development curriculum is well-aligned with its values, preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Pupils understand online safety, demonstrate respect for diversity, and benefit from extra-curricular activities including music, sports, and residential visits.

The Areas Requiring Attention

Achievement category:

The school recognises that some pupils would benefit from additional support in developing and securing their foundational writing skills, including handwriting, spelling, and grammar, to help them produce their best work consistently.

We are pleased that Inspectors recognised the school's work to continuously improve outcomes for children in the key areas of reading, writing and maths. Our year six outcomes have improved year on year and are broadly in line with national figures. However, in the wider curriculum, inspectors felt that the inconsistencies meant achievement across the board is not fully realised. This has also impacted in the other two areas of teaching and curriculum, and Leadership and Governance.

Teaching and Curriculum Category:

While the wider curriculum (for example History and Geography) identifies what pupils should learn and when, inspectors felt that sometimes the delivery of knowledge is not yet consistent. The school will be working hard to ensure that all pupils build and retain knowledge effectively as they progress through school.

Leadership and Governance category:

The school has experienced some changes in staffing and leadership during the last two years, with some curriculum leaders being new to their roles. The inspectors felt that when an area for development was identified, it was not addressed quickly enough, and that governors could be doing more to provide evidence of how we monitor what's going on and provide sufficiently robust oversight of certain areas. We're confident that as our leaders continue to be supported to develop their expertise and oversight, they'll be better positioned to identify and address improvements swiftly.

Next Steps

The school has a clear understanding of its next steps and is committed to building on its recent successes. With continued focus on embedding consistent high-quality teaching across all subjects and developing leadership oversight, Glenfrome Primary is well-positioned to support every pupil to achieve their full potential - while never losing sight of the caring, inclusive environment that defines the school's character, and which we were proud to have shown to Ofsted.

We look forward to welcoming inspectors back, and demonstrating the progress we have all made.

[See below for a link to the full report, and a video guide for parents explaining the new report card.](#)

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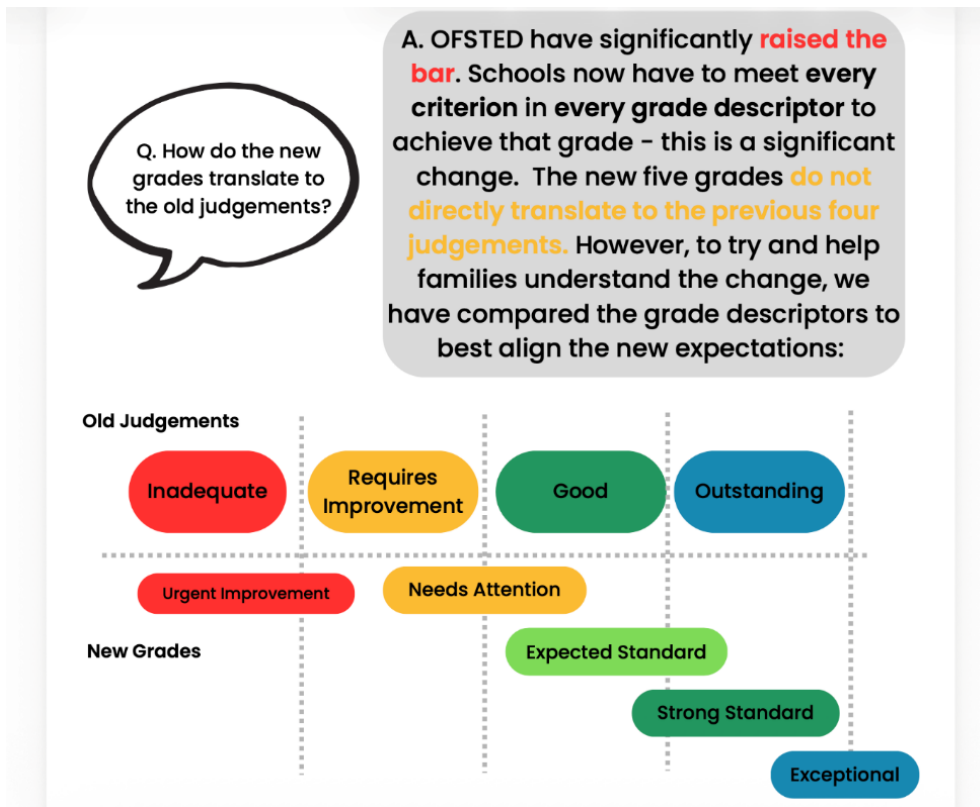




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The link to the full report can be found [here](#)

Below is a helpful diagram comparing previous grades with the new framework



A short guide for parents about the new report card can be watched [here](#)

Once again thank you so much for your continued support for our wonderful school. Should you have any questions about the inspection outcomes, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With our very best wishes

Mrs O'Callaghan and the Governing Board of Glenfrome Primary School

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