

# North Ormesby Primary Academy goes from 'requires improvement' to 'outstanding'

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The school has been praised for its use of technology including the MarvellousMe smartphone app

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North Ormesby Primary Academy principal Christine Kemp-Hall and Vice Principal Craig Nicholson with pupils

A Middlesborough academy is celebrating after being ranked 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

North Ormesby Primary Academy has improved significantly following on from its previous assessment of 'requires improvement' back in May 2013.

Rated outstanding in all areas, the academy has been praised in the recent report which states "all leaders, including governors, are creative in their approach and are unafraid to take measured risks to make sure the academy has continually improved. They have created a culture where everyone loves to learn."

Inspectors also said: "The leadership of the principal is inspirational. She has built a team of leaders, teachers and support staff who share her enthusiasm, dedication and determination."

The report explains that due to the actions of leaders, standards at the academy have risen dramatically. The quality of teaching has improved and is now classed as outstanding which is enabling pupils to make rapid progress.

Principal Christine Kemp-Hall, said: "In terms of two years, it has been a very quick journey for us. I am not saying it has been an easy journey. We have had some battles."

"One of the things we looked at was revamping the curriculum, to raise enjoyment so that the children wanted to learn and would enjoy being here."

"It is all about learning becoming just fun and the norm. The children have said how much they enjoy school now."

A range of technology has also been introduced at the school to aid the learning process including a smartphone app called MarvellousMe.

The app enables teachers to share with parents, grandparents and carers what their children have been doing in class during the day.

By awarding badges, sending messages or even sharing pictures or short video clips, teachers can send updates to parents about their children's activities and achievements as they happen.

This was commended by inspectors in the report who said: "The academy's use of information and communication technology is exceptional and permeates all of its work."

"It is used effectively to help improve teaching, communicate with parents and extend pupils' opportunities to learn at home. Pupils' information and communication skills are outstanding as a result."

Other findings included that the pupils' behaviour is now exemplary, the academy's work to keep pupils safe is outstanding and communication with parents is exceptional.

Christine added: "Just because we have achieved outstanding it is not the end of the line. Parents are very proud that their children attend an outstanding school. It has been quite an emotional journey."

"We just wish they would create a category above outstanding because that is what we would aim for."

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