

TOWN SCHOOL SOARS OUT OF SPECIAL MEASURES WITH NEW GOOD RATING

A Northampton primary school is celebrating after winning a 'Good' school rating from Ofsted inspectors, just five years after being labelled as failing and placed in special measures. Parklands Primary School was visited by inspectors in January and this week they published their report which concluded the school has improved rapidly, standards have been raised and they now judge the school to be 'Good' in all areas.

The school was taken on by Northampton based Preston Hedges Trust when it was placed in special measures and inspectors started their report reflecting on the impact the Trust has made. The report states: "Under the guidance of Preston Hedges Trust, Parklands is flourishing. With the aim of Fun, Creativity and Achievement, leaders have swiftly brought about change and raised standards.

"Pupils feel happy and secure. They told inspectors 'Parklands is a safe place to be, the teachers give you a boost about everything, and 'There are so many good things about Parklands, I love it all."

Preston Hedges Trust – which has five outstanding, new, good and improving schools in Northampton and Milton Keynes – embraced the challenge of taking on the school in 2017, with the task of turning it around.

Trust Chief Executive Paul Watson said: "When we took on this school it was letting children down. I am delighted that under the superb leadership of Executive Principal Tracey Coles and Principal Carmilla Cassidy, so much has been achieved so rapidly, turning the school around and giving Parklands children an excellent education and the best possible start in life.

"Of course everyone has played their part, and it has been amazing to see the whole school community responding to the challenge; the new leadership team we appointed, the hard work of the pupils, the dedication and commitment of the staff and the support of the local community; all have risen to the challenge."

Executive Principal Tracey Coles said: "The transformation of this school is nothing short of remarkable. Children across all age groups are having fun, being creative and achieving academic success with above national average performance in all our age groups. This is now a fantastic school and we can't wait for the next chapter."

Principal Carmilla Cassidy, who was appointed to head the school in 2020, said: "We are thrilled with this report which is true testament to the considerable and consistent work and commitment of all involved in our school community. Of course though there is no room for complacency. We must now continue all the hard work to give our pupils the best possible educational experience and outcomes as we enter the next phase of this amazing school's life."

-ends

[LINK TO OFSTED REPORT HERE](#)