

School Synopsis

The Bemrose School is a very different school from the vast majority of schools in this country, described in our March 2018 Ofsted inspection as *'a gem of a school'*. These differences are very difficult to sum up in a few words and nothing beats a visit. If you are interested in working within a context which is stimulating and hugely rewarding with a great team of adults and some wonderful children and young people, then please read on...

"Staff have high expectations of pupils. Pupils recognise this and feel that staff care about them." Ofsted March 2024

The Bemrose School is a thriving foundation, mixed comprehensive school. We became a 3 – 19 school from September 2014. We are situated about one mile west of Derby City Centre. We have a large primary phase with an admission limit of 60 places in all years. We are very close to full with a waiting lists in a number of year groups. There are currently over 400 children in our primary phase, over 1050 pupils in Years 7 to 11 who are all organised into four houses and we have a growing and very successful sixth form of 60.

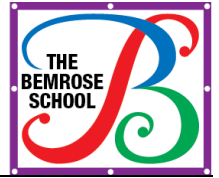
"One Pupil summed up the views of many when they said, 'This is a school where you can be yourself.'" Ofsted March 2024

We were inspected in December 2015. This inspection judged us as requiring improvement. This was the correct judgement in this framework for the school. We were inspected again in March 2018 and judged good and again in March 2024, and we are immensely proud to say, ***'we are a good school'***.

Our primary phase opened in September 2014 and in January 2015, we moved into our fantastic £4 million purpose-built building. We have a small Nursery that, along with our reception, pupils thrive as part of our Early Years Foundation Stage unit. The building was extended in 2017 by four additional classrooms. It truly is a very exciting time to be part of our growing Bemrose family. The school has recently concluded a £25 million refurbishment that has tastefully modernised our 90-year-old buildings. The balance between refurbished, characteristic buildings and new facilities has been managed beautifully to offer excellent teaching facilities with modern IT and interactive media. The Primary phase is 10 years old this year and we are proud to celebrate this.

"The school has a broad and ambitious curriculum. The curriculum is carefully planned to ensure that all pupils build their knowledge over time, regardless of when they start at school." Ofsted March 2024

The Sixth form provision is friendly, personal and based on wanting the very best, whatever a pupil's academic ability. We insist on pupils being ambitious for themselves who are prepared to work hard and are willing to support the continuing improvement of the school in the way that they work and behave. Last year, 96% achieved A*- E and average grade per entry was D+. Results at A level, put us fourth in the city with our best ever results. Our post 16 pupils are the role models for the rest of the school – they have to be willing to get involved in the life of the school and to provide a good example for the younger pupils. We have been rarely disappointed in recent years and we are always delighted when a Bemrose pupil achieves their goals. 100% of pupils gained a place in their 1st choice university last year.



“Pupils know their voice helps the school improve further. There is an active pupil parliament in all year groups. Sixth-form students are encouraged to campaign for change which leads to further improving the experience of all pupils and staff at the school.” Ofsted March 2024

The majority of our secondary aged pupils come from primary schools in west and south-west Derby and are representative of a wide range of ethnic groupings. In our all through school, 53% of our pupils speak English as an additional language and our pupil premium percentage stands just below 50%.

“The school aims to provide opportunities to develop pupils’ cultural capital.” Ofsted March 2024

We have a strong scholar’s program that supports and challenges pupils to be the best they can be and progress onto University, Oxbridge and degree level apprenticeships. We work daily with a small number of pupils who require a varied enhanced provision including an excellent Inclusion and Language Support Unit. We are also proud to have a Secondary Enhanced Resource facility and a linked unit ‘Elmtree’ for children with communication difficulties and autism.

“The support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is a strength. The internal specialist provision is used effectively for bespoke teaching for those pupils who need it. This helps pupils with SEND achieve well.” Ofsted March 2024

The primary KS2 outcomes are in line or above National averages in reading, writing and maths. Our examination results are rising overall. Our Progress 8 figures has improved in the last 5 years. Likewise primary have made substantial gains in phonics, reading, writing and maths. Our benchmarking and tracking of pupil performance reveals further promising signs of improving attainment in Year 11 and Post 16. We have made gains in English, maths and science in KS4, and we will not rest in these gains until we get the very best for all children to give them the best chance as adults. Our expected and above expected progress measures are higher than many other Derby schools for those pupils who are with us for 3 or more years. Effective teaching and learning, positive behaviour management and an appropriate relevant curriculum framework support this. We believe that all children should be supported to be the very best in their futures.

“Teachers receive bespoke training through ‘master classes’ and ‘teaching and learning communities.” Ofsted March 2024

We prepare our pupils for each transition point. We believe that we are preparing pupils for each important step in their life so they can be a success in every opportunity they are presented.

“Those responsible for governance and senior leaders invest their full capacity into improving the lives of the pupils who attend this school. They lead with moral purpose.” Ofsted March 2024

We have had external reviews in literacy and safeguarding recently and these have shone a light on the good practice that permeates through our school.