

Attention to detail



Attention to detail does not lead to outstanding practice, but outstanding schools tend to pay attention to detail, without even really thinking about it. In an outstanding school, the following tend to be a feature (NB not an exhaustive list).

- Books are kept standing up, spines facing out. No books are lying down
- Borders to displays are pristine
- There are no marks on the walls. Scuffs are painted out regularly; there are no Blu-tack marks; double-sided tape has not been used; there are no staples in the walls, and the broken ends of staples are removed from display boards
- All displays are up to date, useful for learning, and there are no empty or 'in creation' boards
- All work displayed is mounted. It is displayed sympathetically, with no staples through the pupil's work
- Pupils' coats are all hanging up, and there are none on the floor. The same for their bags and other equipment
- There are no cardboard boxes in sight (except for junk modelling). Deliveries are not left in the entrance hall
- Reception/ entrance to the school is clearly marked with directional signs, including from the car park
- There are no weeds growing on the playground, common outdoor areas, or the car park
- There is no litter on the school playground or grounds
- Classrooms are never left untidy, e.g. with pieces of cut paper on the floor
- There are always enough working whiteboard pens, Pritt Sticks, etc.
- There are no items displayed in classrooms which are intended for adults, other than compulsory health and safety information
- The teacher's desk is tidy, or there is no teacher desk. It is not used as a semi-storage area
- Art displays display art, and not 30 versions of the same thing
- Things work, and broken items do not wait days for repair
- Items, such as storage sheds, are of good quality. They are neat and tidy
- Windows are clean, and do not have things stuck on them
- There are no piles of leaves blown up against the school wall
- The school receptionist is always welcoming, and there is always someone to let you in promptly
- There are not too many exercise books, and the ones that are used are clean, neat and do not have creased corners where the pages have been bent over the edge of the desk
- Broken equipment is removed from use (e.g. old footballs)
- Storage in the classroom is neat. There are no open shelves, except for display.
- Things are not stored on the floor in plastic bags, cardboard boxes, etc.
- There are no stains on the walls or ceilings
- There is a staff dress code
- The staffroom is kept neat and tidy. There are no dirty cups in the sink
- Graffiti is removed immediately
- Teacher handwriting is neat and carefully-formed
- There are no SPaG errors or typos on the website or information for parents
- Staff take time to go back and correct even the smallest error