



Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Ofsted Inspection Report

As you are aware the school had a full Section 5 (graded) Ofsted Inspection earlier this term on the 26th and 27th October 2022. The inspection was carried out in line with the new "Education Inspection Framework", which has a much tighter focus on the wider curriculum than the previous "School Inspection Framework" that the last inspection in June 2017 was carried out under. A copy of the final report is attached to this letter and can also be found on our school website and the Ofsted Website and we encourage you to read it.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the inspection for their contributions, including the children who were a credit to the school in everything they did and said, parents who made their views clear through conversations with the inspectors and/or the online Parent View survey and the whole staff team for their hard work and continuing efforts. As the inspectors rightly point out, **"Staff care for pupils very well. Pupils are happy and feel safe. There is a strong sense of community, where everyone belongs. Pupils are very proud of their school."** As school leaders, Mrs Santy and I believe the report rightly identifies both the strengths of the school and the areas that we need to continue to improve. Indeed, the inspectors agreed that our self-evaluation of the school was accurate and that our school improvement plans were already focussed on the recommended areas, commenting that: **"Senior leaders work with a clear vision, passion and determination. They focus on the right priorities for the school. They are bringing about significant improvements. They are ambitious for all pupils to achieve their very best."**

The inspectors positively comment on many of the strengths of our school. Such as in Early Years, where the **"Children get off to a great start when the join."** and that **"Leaders have developed an ambitious and well-thought through curriculum."** In all aspects of personal development and behaviour where, **"Leaders promote all pupils personal development well."** **"There is a strong focus on developing pupils confidence and character."** and **"leaders ensure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive sensitive support."** In relation to safeguarding where, **"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There is a strong culture of safeguarding. Leaders ensure that the welfare and safety of pupils are key to their work."**

It also identifies the improvements made and strengths in the Quality of Education. Such as **"The quality of education is improving. Senior leaders have developed a broad curriculum that reflects the ambition of the national curriculum. Leaders are developing ambitious subject curriculums. For example, the mathematics, science and religious education curriculums build pupils' key learning over time."** and **"Pupils learn to read accurately and fluently."** However, the inspection team also agree with our own evaluation that our wider curriculum is not yet ambitious enough in some subject areas and found that In some subjects, including in music, teachers do not consistently check pupils' errors or misunderstandings. As a result of this, the grade given to the Quality of Education is 'Requires Improvement'. As this is such an important strand within the Inspection Framework, the overall effectiveness grade for the school cannot be higher than 'Requires Improvement'.

The report highlights the positive impact senior leaders have in our school in bringing about significant improvements and driving our school forward. However, the report also identifies that our school governors have not fulfilled their responsibilities as well as they should. Therefore, as governors come under 'Leadership and Management' within the Inspection Framework, this area has also been graded as 'Requires Improvement'.

Although we have received the 'Requires Improvement' judgment, our own self-evaluation of our school prior to inspection reflected this judgment in the identified areas and we are pleased that the inspection team has confirmed that senior leaders have an accurate and robust understanding of our schools current performance. We would also like to reassure you that actions to address the necessary improvements have been ongoing since the summer term and have included the following:

- Due to us currently redesigning our wider curriculum, this is not fully embedded across the school and we have undertaken a review to identify which subjects are not as carefully planned for children to know more and remember more and result in some pupils not achieving as well as they should. For those subjects, leaders are now refining the strategic curriculum overviews and have plans in place to work with subject leads and teachers to ensure that expectations of what pupils can learn are high and that knowledge is built upon and routinely checked.
- Professional development is planned in the Spring term to enhance all staff's curriculum leadership to ensure the implementation and impact of the planned curriculum for the pupils matches the intent set out by senior leaders.
- The Governors have appointed new members to the Board to strengthen its capacity to carry out its role effectively, including appointing a member who is a former National Leader of Governance with significant experience of supporting schools in challenging circumstances.
- Governors have been working with senior leaders to ensure there is continued sustainable leadership capacity within school and increased support for some roles that senior leaders undertake so that they have the time to focus on bringing about the necessary improvements in the quality of education currently required as well as addressing the impact of workload on leaders wellbeing.

As a staff team, working tightly with our governing board and the Local Authority, we are passionate and committed to ensure our school delivers excellent provision in all areas that our whole school community so richly deserves. At this time, we ask for your continued support as we continue to work with pace to bring about the necessary change and continue to build upon the improvements that have already been made. We will of course be updating you on a regular basis about what actions have been taken and our progress on our journey of getting those aspects of our school that are not yet good, back to good and beyond.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or wish to discuss any aspect of this letter or the report, please do get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Ellis
Executive Headteacher



Vicky Santy
Head of School



Suzanne Uprichard
Chair of Governors