

07 November 2022

Dear parents/ carers,

As you will know, the school was inspected by Ofsted on 13th and 14th September 2022. This was a graded inspection (formerly known as a Section 5 inspection). Our previous inspection was in March 2017, so we had been expecting a visit this academic year.

The final report identifies a number of key strengths about what it is like to attend this school. Ofsted commented that:

- *Most pupils enjoy learning at the school. They say that staff are helpful and supportive.*
- *Most pupils are polite, cooperative and have good attitudes to their learning.*
- *Most pupils feel safe at school. They have somebody to talk to if they have a problem.*
- *Bullying does happen sometimes but when it does, staff are usually good at sorting it out.*
- *The new 'Hub' provides a range of support that pupils can access to support their learning and wellbeing.*
- *Pupils have lots of opportunities to get involved with school life.*
- *Pupils take part in a broad range of after-school clubs.*

All of these statements reflect the hard work of staff, and the pride that most students have with regards to their attitudes towards school and each other.

All schools are facing challenges in this post-COVID climate, with mental health and safeguarding concerns rising significantly over the past two years. We also know that online learning was particularly detrimental to the children who struggle the most- those who have SEND needs or who are Disadvantaged. In recognition of this, we had already made changes to our pastoral system and had introduced regular weekly SEND briefings to improve our current provision.

The Ofsted final report also acknowledges this:

- *Leaders share strong values. They have a clear vision about how to provide high-quality education for all pupils.*
- *Leaders have made the curriculum more ambitious.*
- *Staff have been trained to use teaching methods to help pupils know and remember more.*
- *Leaders have a good understanding of the needs of pupils with SEND.*
- *There is an effective personal, social, health and economic curriculum.*

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However, the inspectors judged that these plans have not yet been fully realised and the school received a judgement of 'Requires Improvement' for the Quality of Education it provides. This judgement is a limiting one, which means that the school could not be judged 'Good' as a consequence. It also meant that the judgement for Leadership and Management was given as 'Requires Improvement'. We are disappointed by these judgements, as they do not reflect the work that the school has been doing post-pandemic to address lost learning and to build an ambitious curriculum for all students.

Behaviour has also been judged as 'Requires Improvement'. Again, the school put changes in place from September 2022 to address some challenging behaviour that has arisen since the pandemic. We have been focusing on the importance of good attendance, punctuality to school and to lessons, and treating everyone with respect.

Most students do this on a daily basis, and the high levels of positive points on Class Charts are recognition that the vast majority of our students do the right thing. However, some of our students do not and this needs to change. In line with our high expectations, we expect all students to:

- Attend school regularly and on time;
- Behave with care, courtesy and consideration at all times;
- Wear the correct school uniform and bring the required school equipment;
- Follow staff instructions first time without argument;
- Demonstrate politeness towards each other and staff;
- Work to the best of their ability in all lessons;
- Attend any sanctions set.

We look forward to your support in working together to move the school forward.

Under the new framework, the outcome of our Inspection is as follows:

Quality of Education: Requires Improvement

Behaviour & Attitudes: Requires Improvement

Personal Development: Good

Leadership and Management: Requires Improvement

Overall: Requires Improvement

The full report is attached and due to be published on the Ofsted website on Tuesday 15 November 2022.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Govan

Headteacher



Mr N Groves

Chair of Governors

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.