

Principals' Post

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MR SPRINGETT-MCHUGH & MRS DRAPER

OFSTED

Dear Families

We are writing to let you know that we are now in our Ofsted window for our next school inspection. This means it has been four years since our last visit, and as a result, the time has come for the school to be reviewed again under the national inspection cycle.

Since our previous inspection, Ofsted has introduced a completely new framework. This represents a significant shift in how schools are judged, and we are no longer able to cross-reference or compare outcomes to our last report. The language, criteria, and focus of the new framework are different in many ways from the previous system.

One of the biggest changes is the introduction of the new Ofsted “report card.”

Rather than receiving an overall single-word grade, schools now receive a card that summarises how well they meet expectations across several key areas. This new format is designed to give parents a clearer, more balanced picture of the school’s strengths and priorities. The categories are no longer framed as ‘Outstanding’, ‘Good’, or similar, but instead highlight whether schools are working **at the expected level, above, or below** in each area.

It is important to note that, nationally, the new ‘expected’ judgement is set at a very high benchmark.

Schools operating at this level are considered to be providing strong, effective education and care. Being judged as ‘expected’ is a positive outcome that reflects a school meeting Ofsted’s high standards in the new, modernised framework. As this system is still relatively new, many schools across the country are experiencing inspections that look and feel very different from the past, with notable shifts in emphasis—particularly around curriculum depth, SEND provision, safeguarding culture, leadership, and personal development.

Being evaluated under this new report card and framework brings both opportunities and challenges. It means aspects of our school that were previously judged differently will now be viewed through a fresh lens, but it also allows us to showcase the full breadth of what makes our schools special.

As always, we will proudly celebrate our school, our children, our staff, and our community. We will welcome any next steps the inspectors may offer, as ongoing improvement is central to our mission. Whatever the outcome, it will help us continue to strengthen our provision.

DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE - TOGETHER

TWO SITES—ONE HEART, ONE MISSION, ONE SCHOOL



As a community, this is a moment for us to shine. We are incredibly proud of our schools, and we want that pride to be felt and seen: the wonderful experiences our children enjoy, the care they receive each day, and the commitment we all share to making our schools exceptional places to learn and grow.

We will, of course, keep you informed and let you know as soon as we receive the call confirming our inspection date.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards

Mr N Springett-McHugh
Executive Principal

Mrs K Draper
Associate Principal

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