



Friday 8th December 2017

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed our written report, published by Ofsted on December 6th 2017 regarding our recent moderation visit.

I am very pleased to report that the school now meets the requirements of the Independent School Regulations that were checked during this inspection. ***'This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at the previous inspection.'***

On your behalf, I thank our staff, who have worked hard as a united body under the leadership and direction of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that we meet all compliance directives. In particular I thank Mrs Zeilah Chadwick, designated safeguard lead and business manager, who has led not only a change in compliance with all regulations, but who has also genuinely brought about a change in our school culture regarding safeguarding and all related practices.

Thank you for keeping your resolve, faith and trust in us as we have worked to turn around the judgement of our Ofsted report in regard to failures in safeguarding. It has only taken a year to turn this ruling around to be able to restore your confidence in us as parents; it is your judgement of us that matters the most to us. Thank you also for those parents who have joined the school in the last year; a decision that will have taken some courage.

Some of our headlines from the report include: ***'systems for reporting concerns are concise, clear and followed consistently by staff across the whole school.'***

'The designated safeguarding lead deals with all referrals swiftly and ensures that she works with parents, carers and external agencies as appropriate.'

'Records are clear, detailed and meticulously kept.'

'The designated safeguarding lead has overhauled the systems, procedures and policies of safeguarding in the school. She has brought absolute clarity to the expectations of staff in ensuring that safeguarding is effective and a whole school priority.'

The role of the governors has been strengthened in the past year, and this was acknowledged in the report: (through training) '**governors provide more rigorous challenge to school leaders.**'

The impact of further additions to our leadership team were also noted: '**The new head of primary is taking a leading role in developing the quality of teaching and learning in the school... and the new head of upper school is taking a lead role in developing an appropriate data management system...pupils are particularly positive about the new data management system as they are now clear about their target grades.**'

The school now meets the statutory safeguarding requirements for early years: '**Clear and precise risk assessments are now in place for activities that the children take part in. Leaders work with Early Years Bradford to ensure that through challenge and support, the provision for the children in the early years remains compliant and continues to improve. Records of their visits show that progress is rapid.**'

We believe that the visible and tangible culture of the school has improved during the last year and that this was picked up by the Ofsted Inspector. What she was able to discern and verify by her careful questioning of pupils and staff was soon confirmed in her appraisal of the copious and clear levels of paper evidence she was able to see on demand.

What this means

It means that we are able to publish this report on our website detailing that all failures that resulted in our judgement of 'inadequate' have now been rectified and that we are compliant with the Independent School standards. Unfortunately we will have to wait for our next full Ofsted inspection in approximately two years time before we can improve our overall judgement. In this time we will continue to develop the quality of our teaching and learning and the standards of achievement across the whole of the school.

Our meeting of all safeguarding standards means that we will be able to resume receiving funding for our early years setting from Bradford Education Authority. We appreciate the faith the local authority have continued to place in us. We could have lost all our funding for the past year but at the discretion of the local authority, we have retained the funding for those children we already had on roll. It now means that for those children who have joined us in early years since November 2016, we will now be able to receive funding for their places.

Further matters.

We recently took the decision to dispense with our usual annual partnership meeting, which has seen declining numbers over the past few years. Instead we are finding new ways to invite you as parents into school in ways that are meaningful to you. This has included individual meetings with members of the senior leadership team, meetings with parents of our older students led by our new head of upper school, breakfast celebrations in middle school and a new format to meeting your children's teachers for pupils in primary.

We are holding our annual prize giving in a new format this year and this will take place in a special assembly on the morning of Friday 15th December at 9:00am in school. All parents are warmly invited to this celebration.

We are also going to put on a breakfast of bacon butties, tea and coffee on the morning of Saturday 13th January 2018 9:00am until 10:30am. This will be a working breakfast and we will share the following information with you:

- Changes to safeguarding and other key compliance policies. Led by Mrs Zeilah Chadwick (designated safeguard lead and business manager)
- The introduction of a new Management Information System and what it will mean to our ability to account for our pupils progress and attainment. Also how we are meeting the academic needs of all our pupils, especially those who are more able. Led by Mr Mark Prothero (Head of Upper school).
- The development of our special needs provision and the continuing development of our DSP for Autism. Led by Mrs Jane Prothero and Mrs Sharon Horton.
- We will share our three main aims for this current academic year and some of our plans for the future. Led by Mr Moon as Headteacher.
- Mr Moon and Mr Taylor our Chair of Governors will lead a panel of Senior leaders in answering your questions and hearing your comments.

Please note that this is an RSVP event. Please let the office know that you are intending to come to this meeting.

We are confident that we can compete in the educational arena in our city. We offer a real alternative education partnering with parents who value faith and spiritual nurture at the heart of their children's education.

Yours sincerely

P.J.Moon
Headteacher