

Thursday 12th January 2017

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed a paper copy of our recent Ofsted Inspection undertaken between November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. This report can be found on our website as well as on Ofsted's Website.

We saw some really positive feedback in several areas of the school, with quality of teaching, learning and assessment and outcomes for pupils being rated as good. This reflects the hard work and dedication that has been put into the school over the past few years and we are really proud of this achievement.

In other areas of the judgement, we found the ratings to be disappointing and set out some context below to help you understand how these ratings were determined.

The overall judgement on the school is inadequate, due largely to a failure to comply with some aspects of safeguarding requirements as laid out by the Independent School Standards. The way in which the Ofsted assessment works means that where any element of safeguarding is deemed as inadequate, this results in the overall judgement having to be inadequate. This is understandably very disappointing.

However, as a school we take this extremely seriously and we are confident that we can meet the required improvements. We have already taken swift steps to rectify these shortcomings; some of the non compliance issues we were able to rectify in the course of the visit or have been rectified since the visit, and appropriate training, where it was needed, has been booked for members of staff, which will be completed by mid January. Please be assured that we take safeguarding seriously and consider it a priority to ensure that your children are safe whilst they are with us in school.

In a climate of very intense accountability, as a small school we have made consistent and strategic improvements over the three years since our previous Ofsted. As previously mentioned we are pleased with the positive areas that were highlighted in the report, such as:

- 'Teaching is usually good. As a result, most pupils make good progress in most subjects across the age ranges.'
- 'Outcomes are good at each stage of pupils' development. Pupils generally enter school with average skills, knowledge and understanding. By the time they leave the school, their attainment is above average. The vast majority of pupils leave the school well prepared for the next stage of their education.'
- 'The curriculum is broad, balanced and stimulating, giving pupils a truly rounded education. Teachers plan interesting lessons that stimulate pupils' enjoyment and secure full involvement.'
- 'Leaders and teachers actively promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Consequently, they prepare pupils well for life in modern Britain.'
- 'Strong relationships help pupils develop confidence. They are encouraged to think freely

and express their views. They feel safe.'

- 'Pupils behave well in the playground and other areas of the school. Younger pupils play actively together with no sign of aggression or inappropriate behaviour. Older pupils socialise together calmly.'
- Our early Years was acclaimed good in everything except safeguarding which was linked to the whole school judgement.
- Pupils are keen and motivated to learn with their personal development being seen as a real strength of our school
- 'The vast majority of pupils leave the school well prepared for the next stage of their education.'
- 'Leaders promotes equality of opportunity well'
- 'A friendly, vibrant atmosphere pervades the school. Pupils are polite and friendly. The specialist ASD provision is a safe, caring haven for pupils.'
- The progress made by pupils who are funded by the local authority represents good value for money.

We know that for many of you as parents the above mentioned positives contain many of the reasons you have chosen BCS for your children. This grading does not change any of these.

We ask you to trust us as we continue to improve the areas identified in the report and also continue to deliver on your aspirations as parents.

We are required to write an action plan which will form the basis of a monitoring visit early this year. In the interests of transparency, the commitment to improve and to become compliant in all of the Independent School Standards we would like to hold an open meeting for your questions and to explain where we were non compliant, what action we have already taken, and what steps we will be taking in the immediate future to meet the standards and to work towards restoring a judgement of 'Good' or better. We would urge you to come to one of these meetings or to book time to speak to us about your concerns.

This open meeting will be on Monday 16th January 2017 at 9:00 and repeated on the same evening at 7:30pm (where governors will also be available).

As Headteacher, myself and my leadership team are also available for personal appointments during Friday 13th January from 9:00am - 6:00pm.

Yours sincerely

P.J.Moon

Headteacher