

15th June 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, on 22nd and 23rd May we were the subject of an Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) inspection. The inspectors spent time at both Lockleaze Road and Orchard Campus sites and across all year groups. The final report will be published on the Ofsted website and our school website on Monday 18th June. A paper copy can be requested from the front desk. We encourage you to read the full report and have summarised the findings below.

We were delighted that our **Early Years Provision was awarded an overall 'good' rating**. Ofsted recognised that teachers and staff ensure children get off to a good start, that children's needs are quickly identified and the right provision is put in place to help the children succeed. **High expectations** mean that children are **effectively challenged and supported** to start catching up quickly, often from low starting points. They praised the fact that teachers plan **exciting activities** and that the indoor and outdoor learning spaces are a hive of well-directed activity supporting children's early communication, literacy and language. All of this means **that outcomes are strong**, including for children who speak English as an additional language.

Moving up through the school, Ofsted noted strengths in key stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and lower key stage 2 (years 3 and 4) that help ensure **outcomes compare well to the national average** in reading, writing and mathematics, including at the higher standards. Given their prior starting points, pupils make **steady progress**.

The inspectors recognised that since the amalgamation of the infant and junior school in 2015, the rate of improvement at the end of key stage 2 has not been fast enough and therefore requires improvement for the school to be considered 'good' across all categories. They stressed that leaders are determined to see the school improve, and that our recent actions are **raising achievement so that standards are rising across the school in reading, writing and mathematics**. This can be seen in our results, with historically low outcomes at the end of key stage 2 improving rapidly. For example, combined reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2 has **risen from 21% in 2016 to 40% in 2017**, and whilst we have not yet had the results from this year's SATs, assessment information based on a range of moderation shows this is **set to increase by a significant percentage again this year**.

We are pleased that Ofsted recognised our **focus on the diversity of our school's community**, noting that pupils are respectful and learn about a wide range of different cultures and religions and are tolerant and understand the importance of individual liberty and the rule of law. In addition, they observed a **strong culture of safeguarding**, effectively promoted through the strong work of the inclusion and pastoral team, with leaders being **tenacious and diligent in their safeguarding duties**. This means that pupils say that they feel safe and know how to stay safe in a range of situations

The report specifically mentions the **good partnerships the school has with parents**, with the overwhelming majority of parents saying that they feel that their child is making good progress. The inspectors recognised that that leaders' have **worked tirelessly and diligently** with parents and carers to improve pupils' attendance and behaviour, and that the climate for learning has started to improve strongly so that pupils are now feeling secure and able to learn in lessons.

We have come a long way since the amalgamation of the infant and junior schools in 2015. The inspection found many strengths in the school and also shows us where we need to focus our efforts to continue to improve and to bring all key stages to the same high standard. The next steps for the school to take to become securely good are:

1. To continue to improve teaching and learning, particularly in key stage 2, to address misconceptions quickly and ensure that standards continue to rise through the whole school and across the whole curriculum.
2. To further close gaps between disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN (Special Educational Needs) and/or disabilities and their peers, ensuring high expectations through strategic planning and precise milestones.
3. To continue to embed the new maths curriculum to deepen pupils' mathematical knowledge and understanding.

We have a talented and committed team of staff who have been working hard to bring improvements but we have always known that this journey would take several years. Ofsted have stressed that the **school has the capacity and drive to do this**, and that their scrutiny of work **confirms pupils' achievement is now rising securely across the school**. We are disappointed that the inspection did not find us further along this path, but remain ambitious and are fully committed to making this an outstanding school for our pupils and the community.

We would to thank all our parents and carers for their support and hope that we have your continued support for journey ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mark Davies
Chief Executive
Trust in Learning (Academies)



Jane Walton
Chair of Governors



Anne Rutherford
Executive Head