



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday, 29th January 2024

Re: Ofsted Inspection and Report

Dear Parents,

As you know, our school was visited on 14th and 15th November 2023 by 5 Ofsted Inspectors to carry out an inspection of the school. Given Ofsted have stated their intention to reduce the number of schools graded as outstanding, we knew keeping our existing grading would be challenging under the current Inspection Framework. However, our own self evaluation and other recent accountability measures indicated that our school would retain the grading of outstanding, and staff and leaders were keen and eager to open our doors to Inspectors.

The report from the Inspection in November is attached. You will see the school has been given an overall grade of good with an outstanding grade in three of the five areas: Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Early Years. The overall grading of good for Quality of Education was given because Inspectors felt: *“pupils’ long term recall of knowledge is not as full and detailed in a small number of foundation subjects as it is in others.”* Within the current Ofsted Framework, the Leadership and Management judgement cannot be higher than the judgement for Quality of Education.

There has been a delay in the publication of the report due to serious concerns we raised in the week of the inspection about the conduct of an inspector during the visit, as well as factual inaccuracies in the content of the draft inspection report.

We are incredibly proud of the way our school community came together during the inspection. Our wonderful staff team welcomed the inspectors, with the 24 hours notice that is given, over two typically busy school days and overcame the usual logistical barriers a school week can bring such as the loss of wifi, relocating classrooms after a fox was trapped inside the school building overnight and a broken photocopier to name but a few! Our pupils were typically enthusiastic and polite. They had not been told inspectors were visiting, but welcomed unknown adults into their classrooms, spoke to them in small groups and talked to them about their learning. We are particularly proud of the positive comments about our amazing pupils, their exemplary behaviour, and respectful attitudes towards each other.

We would like to celebrate other positive comments that the inspectors noted in the report, particularly:

- **Community is at the heart of the school.** This is central to our school’s vision and many comments in our Ofsted report make reference to our “aspirational community.”
- **Pupils respect and care for one another.** We are incredibly proud of the inclusive, globally aware, socially conscious and loving pupils at our school.
- **Staff have warm working relationships with pupils.** We have incredibly dedicated staff who are committed to serving our wide community and nurturing the gifts of each child.
- **The school offers a high-quality and ambitious early years provision.** We are thrilled inspectors recognised the excellent provision for pupils at the earliest stage of their learning
- **The school has a strong focus on reading and nurtures a love of books.**
- **Pupils with special educational needs achieve well** and learn with confidence and independence
- **The provision for pupils’ wider personal development is “exceptional”**
- **The school is ambitious to ensure that all pupils leave school with a well-rounded education that prepares them for future life.**

Complaint about conduct

As a result of deeply unprofessional conduct from a member of the Inspection team we have made a formal complaint to Ofsted which is ongoing. There has been much in the media recently about the changes that are being made to inspection arrangements to support schools when they raise concerns. Unfortunately, we did not benefit from these changes.

Concerns around the evidence base

We are very proud of our aspirational curriculum and the high standards we have for all groups of children in all statutory assessments. Our statutory results for KS1 and KS2 can be found on our website [here](#) and show that we are well above national standards in all areas in reading, writing and maths. Our curriculum is similarly aspirational in our foundation subjects and this is noted in the inspection report stating “*the school has designed a broad and ambitious curriculum.*” Yet inspectors felt that in a few subjects: *pupils’ long term recall of knowledge was not as full and detailed as it is in others.* Staff and senior leaders felt the evidence base for this statement was insecure, including testing children on knowledge they had learnt during the Covid lockdown without consideration of the context, talking to groups of children without their usual prompts and refusing to return to classes to see the knowledge gained during a lesson visit.

Ofsted accountability and single word judgements

It is hard not to get caught up in the gravity of an Inspection system that is currently under a lot of scrutiny for its approach and framework. We urge parents not to look at single grade judgements but to make their own assessments of our school and schools they are considering for their child’s future education. One word judgements should not define a school, the amazing communities they support and the incredible teams of staff who work to serve these communities.

The responsibility of all schools has shifted monumentally post-Covid and yet the level of accountability from Ofsted Inspections and areas of the Inspection Framework have remained stubbornly unchanged. Although our inspection report states that inspectors spoke to leaders about the Covid pandemic, we do not agree with this statement and did not find any evidence that inspectors were interested or open to hearing about the impact of the pandemic.

CtS remains the same school today - under a ‘good’ judgement - as it was last week as an ‘outstanding’ school. We are confident pupils will continue to flourish and staff will continue to go above and beyond in their efforts to support children to achieve their full potential. The current inspection framework is heavily weighted to children knowing more and remembering more in every lesson. We will take on the feedback from our latest inspection and we are happy to review the place that knowledge holds in our curriculum; however we will be cautious about replacing our ambitious, exciting and active curriculum with rote learning and the robotic recall of facts.

Christ the Saviour is a school that has served our local community for over 160 years. Our mission, in line with our vision, is not to achieve a single word judgement but to encourage children in their learning, their faith and their relationships. We continue to stand proudly at the gates each day to welcome our thriving groups of pupils through the doors of the school with big smiles and open hearts. We do not believe that point-in-time, single grade, Ofsted judgements help schools to self-improve, offer parents the information they require, nor strengthen and encourage the teaching profession.

We continue to be an aspirational school serving our community, and striving for excellence for all our pupils.

Kind regards,

Mrs K. Tramoni
Headteacher

Mark Hedges
Chair of Governors