

Friday 13th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

OfSTED Report 2022: Message from Mr Hoare

Please find attached a copy of our school's OfSTED Report. You may remember that we were inspected in March this year, but with the Easter Break the final report has only just been received into school.

The most important headline for us is:

'Mountfields Lodge School continues to be a good school.'

We are delighted with this judgement as we very much feel that indeed we are!

If you haven't read an OfSTED Report before, you may not be prepared for how relatively short they are. Inspectors have to follow a 'model' that is non-negotiable; they have their reports proofread at least twice and have word counts to abide by, have vocabulary limitations and a restricted ability to include direct quotes. That said, if you do read other reports, you will notice that ours *has* been 'personalised' more than some others! There are lovely quotes about who we are and what we do and what we consider to be important, comments, or judgements, such as:

'Pupils are proud of their school because it is welcoming, and everyone looks after each other.'

'This is a fantastic school which is supportive of children and families.'

'Pupils enjoy their lessons.'

'Staff enjoy working at the school.'

'Pupils said that adults help them to talk about their emotions and how to manage them.'

'Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) become increasingly independent because adults know them well.'

'All staff ensure that reading in school is given high importance.'

'Leaders in the early years ensure that children develop their communication and language skills well.'

'The school's curriculum has a focus on developing pupils' personal, social and emotional well-being.'

'The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.'

'Pupils know who to go to if anything worries them. Pupils know their concerns and worries will be taken seriously.'

There are 'pointers for improvement', as you would always expect, and these we are already working to address, and indeed were doing so before the OfSTED Team visited as they had already been self-identified by the school.



We have never been a complacent school; we review what we do; we reflect on what we find, and we seek to develop and improve.

I would like to thank all of you who were so supportive during the inspection process, whether it was finding the time to complete the Parent View questionnaires, being interviewed by inspectors at the school gate, talking to inspectors over the phone or simply sharing supportive, encouraging messages as you dropped off or picked up your children each day; in a busy working week all were appreciated.

The report 'goes live' on the OfSTED website later next week and it will be 'published' on *our* website before then; at that point all will be able to access it.

I will be writing to the children to let them know what the inspectors said – you of course may wish to share snippets with them yourselves. I would just say that our pupils were wonderful throughout the process and 'did us - and you - proud.' There were *a lot* of pupil interviews across all age groups for many different reasons - interviews that staff could not be part of - giving the pupils the opportunity to 'tell it as it is'; their voice was incredibly important and they spoke with knowledge, passion and clarity, which is what we see on a regular basis when we interview them in school.

My thanks must also, of course, go to all of the school staff and governors who were part of the process in so many different ways; they were observed and questioned; they were asked to explain, justify and prove; it was, as you might expect, an intensive couple of days and a lot was demanded of all involved, but we made it through with teamwork and unwavering support, and for that I can only say, 'thank you'.

Kind regards,

Michael Hoare
Head teacher

OfSTED Report 2022: Message from Mr Flint, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff on a very successful Ofsted inspection. A huge amount of work goes into the normal operation of a school, and participating in an inspection places a significant amount of additional workload and pressure on all staff. The inspection framework changed significantly in late 2019 and this combined with all of the challenges that we have all faced due to Covid over the last couple of years means that maintaining our grading is a substantial achievement.



As Mr Hoare has said, the report does not give detailed information on the rigorous 2-day inspection. However, the comprehensive verbal feedback received on the second day was overwhelmingly positive. Impressively, governors are already seeing progress being made on some of the areas for improvement that were mentioned.

Finally, I would like to recognise all of those who contribute to the school community and who also help to make our school 'Good' - or even better! We have a wonderful PSA who not only support in fundraising for books and other resources but who enrich the children's experiences in so many other ways. We also have a fantastic group of volunteers, including those who come into school to read with children and support their learning, people who work on the grounds and open spaces and indeed my fellow governors. All of this helps make the school what it is.

James Flint
Chair of Governors on behalf of the school's Governing Body.





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