

17th June 2019



Dear Parents/Carers

We have now received the Ofsted Inspection Report for the school. The Report can be viewed in one of the following three ways:

1. As an attachment to this email
2. Via the link on the school website
3. Via a paper copy available from the School Office

The report will be published on Ofsted's Website by 20th June 2019.

Whilst we are disappointed with the overall Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement, the report notes a number of positive areas including:

- the strong care and nurture for pupils;
- the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with the enjoyment pupils get from the wide range of extra-curricular activities including Dorchester University being a key feature of pupils' feedback to inspectors.
- pupils feeling safe in school;
- pupils' good behaviour and the inclusive nature of the school;
- evidence of well-planned lessons in English, Science, History and Design Technology;
- improvement in the number of pupils expected to meet age-related expectations in the 2019 KS2 SATs in English and Mathematics;
- improvements in attendance and reduction in persistent absence;

These positive and crucial aspects of our work reflect the effort and dedication that has been put into the school over the past two years and we are really proud of these achievements.

In other areas of the judgement, we found the ratings to be disappointing, not least given the very short timescale we were afforded to secure the improvements identified in the November 2018 Section 8 Inspection Report. The view of leaders and governors is that it was unacceptable of Ofsted to expect improvements to have been established and embedded within 72 school days when the usual time scale to secure improvement is between 18 months and 3 years. It is on the basis of the scheduling of two inspections within one academic year that a complaint has been submitted to Ofsted about the inspection process.

However, we are very clear that there is a significant amount of work to be done to ensure that the school improves to at least Good within the next year. Plans are already in place, as identified in the report, and improvements are well under way. Consequently we expect these improvements to be fully recognised in future inspections of the school.

We ask you to trust us as we continue to strive for the very best opportunities for our pupils and also to deliver on your aspirations as parents.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Dearden
Headteacher

Jan Dunne
Chair of Governors

Learn today for life tomorrow

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