

Thursday 1st March 2018.

Dear Parents,

Following the school's inspection in January, the report has now been published and is available to be read via our school website. If you would like a paper copy please send a request in writing into school or ask at the office and we shall provide you with one.

The very large majority of the bullet point statements in every main section of the report are positive about the work of the school. For this I compliment and thank our great children, our dedicated staff who work so hard, our committed governors and the ongoing strong partnership with yourselves.

There are also plenty of statements within the report that evidence our culture of promoting the wellbeing, welfare, care and support for our children, our regular staff training in this area and, in what you told the inspection team, a swift response from us to address concerns whenever you share them with us. However we have been judged by the lead inspector that our arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. This is because the inspection team made a judgement that our records in some cases were not in sufficient detail. They also disagreed with our decision, in a small number of cases, regarding whether or not to make a referral to Children's Services. They also identified some training needs for staff. They decided that these points may cause the potential for safeguarding issues to arise. It is important to confirm that there were no issues raised during the inspection about the safety of any of our pupils and that following the inspection immediate action was taken to address the concerns raised.

Even though fifty seven of the sixty seven bullet points within the main body of the report identify the good outcomes of the work of our school, any judgements around safeguarding being less than effective mean that the school may only be given an overall judgement of inadequate. This is until it demonstrates that safeguarding arrangements are effective. Due to their rules, only the areas of teaching, learning and assessment and pupil outcomes are allowed to be judged as good. The other areas, as they have an element of safeguarding within them can only be given a judgement of inadequate. The EYFS section of our school falls under this category as it has a separate section within the report. Again it is important to confirm that there were no safeguarding issues reported in this department. In fact, reading the report will show that practice in this phase of the school is strong.

Although governors and leaders are disappointed by this judgement because we are deeply committed to the care and wellbeing of our children, this judgement has been accepted. The inspection team did state that the school leaders and governors have the capacity to make the required improvements. I can again confirm that the points for required improvement that were identified within the report were actioned by school leaders and governors and addressed within a number of days following the actual inspection. Relevant staff training was completed by externally accredited trainers. An electronic record keeping system was established. Our decision making process for communicating with Children's Services was updated and has since been tested, approved and validated externally and independently by the Birmingham Safeguarding Team's Head of Service. This also included the inspection of our safeguarding records which importantly showed no issues regarding any child being unsafe. We now look forward to a further inspection to demonstrate that safeguarding arrangements are effective within our school. Until then as always, we will continue to do our very best in service of the children and families within our school and parish community.

I would also like to thank you for taking the time to complete the recent parent questionnaire where 100% of the 334 responses received agreed that your child feels safe at school and is well looked after (87% strongly agree). I shall publish the full results of the questionnaire in next week's newsletter.

Finally as always, please feel free to come and meet with myself, a member of the leadership team or your child's class teacher should you have any concerns about your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Kelly,

Headteacher