

11th April 2019

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to send you a copy of the final Ofsted report received this week. It goes live on their website at the weekend so I wanted you to receive it first.

I am thrilled with the comments; the excellence shines through. You will see the word 'strong' many times: strong moral code, strong ethos linked to fundamental British Values, strong progress across the curriculum. Personal development and welfare: outstanding; behaviour of pupils: outstanding.

There was specific recognition of high standards in writing, maths, RE and science, as well as highly effective leadership, including governance; love of reading, PE and strong progress of specific groups.

'The ethos of the school strongly promotes pupils' personal development. Pupils have many opportunities to learn how to live together well as a community.'

'Pupils' behaviour around the school is excellent. They are responsible and well mannered. They exemplify the school's strong moral code and are highly supportive of each other.'

'Pupils are confident and articulate learners. They become active citizens in the world, who are compassionate, tolerant and respectful of others. They are keen to make a difference.'

'Staff and pupils work together very well. Pupils appreciate the support that they receive from adults in the school. Pupils are respectful and interested in what they are learning.'

'Parents are highly supportive of the school's nurturing ethos. They feel that their children become well-rounded individuals. They value the way in which pupils care for each other and the Christian values of the school.'

'Pupils could not recall incidents of bullying at the school. However, leaders display no complacency...Pupils are adamant that teachers would deal appropriately with any bullying. The rare instances which have occurred have been dealt with thoroughly and appropriately by leaders.'

'Parents are highly supportive of the school. They feel that their children are well cared for. They appreciate the approachability of the staff and the leadership team.'

Where it references the 'previous inspection' it refers to the last full inspection we had in October 2013; it does not take in to account the 'no designation inspection' we had in

November 2017 that indicated quite clearly that there was no decline in standards since the last inspection.

The action points are not unreasonable and can be easily remedied. I would ask you to be mindful that published data can be misleading as small cohorts affect comparative percentages against national data; this in turn does not always give a true reflection of standards at a school. This was discussed at length with the inspector, as this explains the apparent 'dip' in standards that she referred to.

You might be interested to read the article on the link below as it may help to put things surrounding the possible reasons for the inspection in context. The previous article said that only 23% of outstanding schools held the outstanding grade in the autumn term; this reports shows much less. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-downgrades-dozens-of-outstanding-schools/>

I certainly believe this report is something to celebrate and although we won't have the outstanding label any more, we know that we have actually achieved far more to secure 'good' under this new, more rigorous framework. Our school is an amazing place for children to learn and we know that and I believe you know that and I know that others in the Trust believe that too. We are admired by many and the CEO of DLAT as well as the Director of the Diocesan Board of Education have expressed their huge delight with this outcome and have sent congratulations to everyone. *'Please pass on our thanks and congratulations to all your staff, parents and governor colleagues and the children on this super report, reflecting the transformational work you carry out daily to help your children flourish.'* (DLAT central team).

As one of our governors has said in an email to me yesterday: 'I know the governors all appreciate the work you and all your excellent staff put into the school and this is evident from this report. Congratulations to you all and as far as I'm concerned I will always think of Redmile as 'Outstanding'!'

Enjoy reading the report and as always, thank you for sharing your children with us. We are proud and honoured to serve you all in our special community.

Your sincerely,

Your very proud Executive Headteacher