



The Vineyard School
Friars Stile Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6NE

Dear Families,

I am delighted to finally be able to share the Ofsted report with you, which has graded the school as 'good'. Every member of the staff team is proud of how far we have come as a school, and that Ofsted agreed with our self-evaluation. In fact, Ofsted's next steps were already on our school development plan for 2023-2025.

The grade has changed and for some it might sound like we have been downgraded. This is far from the truth. As you will have read in communications sent over the last year, and in the press, the Ofsted framework has changed considerably since 2013 when The Vineyard was previously inspected. The changes to make the framework more exacting and demanding, and the need to meet or exceed every Ofsted grade descriptor rather than a best fit approach, has made the grade of a 'good' an extremely positive result, which we are very proud of.

The new framework has shifted to a greater focus on wider curriculum subjects rather than just English and mathematics. The progress of our children in these core subjects remains very strong. Over the past two years we have been developing a bespoke curriculum in each of these wider curriculum subjects (a total of 9) to ensure each one fits the needs of our children. It is a process that can't be rushed. This year we are working on RE, music and design & technology which are the final pieces in the puzzle. Inspectors commented that we are *developing an ambitious, exciting and interesting curriculum which matches the values of the school*.

Our next step will be working on assessment so that teachers become experts in checking what the children understand and the knowledge they acquire as the lesson progresses. They then adapt the lesson as they teach it to secure the acquisition of knowledge for all children.

I would like to share that the report format is brief and succinct, and accordingly doesn't fully articulate how impressed the inspectors were with our progress over the last two years. They described several areas as a *very strong good*. The lead inspector commented, on more than one occasion, that *we are absolutely on the right path, we've identified the correct next steps and given more time, we will achieve our goals*.

We have been graded 'outstanding' in one area. Arguably this is the most important area in a primary school - personal development. This is about each child becoming personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective so that they can lead healthy, safe and fulfilling lives. This is taught through the PSHE curriculum, educational trips, pupil voice (school council and green team) and the extracurricular activities on offer. The children interviewed were able to talk about equality and explained how to stay healthy - physically and mentally - and what to do if they don't feel safe. We were incredibly pleased with how articulate and confident they were when speaking about our school.

To hear direct feedback from the inspectors about our well-mannered, positive children who are industrious learners was an absolute privilege. I am immensely proud of our school which is going from strength to strength as a result of the children, tirelessly hardworking staff and engagement of our families. It is through joint working that the children leave The Vineyard ready for the next stage in their lives. The inspectors agreed with this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for your huge support during the inspection. Some came in and sharpened pencils, some helped with a tidy up and most of you filled in the parent survey - thank you! We will be holding a family meeting on Monday 18th December, 8.45-9.30am where we will be able to give you more feedback, talk about our plans for the next steps and answer any questions you may have.

Best wishes,

Frances Bracegirdle
Headteacher