



Gaddesden Row JMI School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Talbot
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Dear Parents,

I am delighted, at last, to be able to share the outcomes of our most recent Ofsted Inspection with you. As this was a Short Inspection, designed only to check that we remain a **good school** and that **Safeguarding is effective**, the report takes on the format of a letter addressed to me.

We are all very pleased with the very many successes that the report highlights, the recognition of the challenges that small schools face and that the areas we have already identified as requiring development have also been validated by Ofsted. Whilst I would encourage you all to read the whole report carefully, it is a substantial document and so I have summarised some of the the main points below.

Strengths:

We are a good school – ‘the school is a vibrant, inviting place, where staff feel valued and pupils flourish.....all your staff are proud to work at the school and virtually all say that the school is well led and managed.’

‘Parents and carers overwhelmingly support the school and .. leadership. It is to your credit that 100% of parents ... would recommend this school to others. They say their children are happy, well cared for and make good progress.’

‘Adults know the pupils in their classes very well and adapt learning to their needs.’

EYFS – ‘You, your new teacher for this classhave worked extremely hard to overcome barriers. The setting is bright, inviting and stimulating. Children clearly enjoy their learning..’

Safeguarding is effective – ‘keeping safe permeates all that the school does Leaders and governors take their role seriouslyPupils said they feel safe’

‘Pupil Progress is tracked carefully and....pupils are largely making good progress. Several are on track to achieve the higher standard in reading, writing and maths.’

Next Steps:

‘Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

*teachers have high expectations of all pupils....

*teachers provide pupils with more opportunities to practise their basic skills in writing and mathematics and apply them across the curriculum.

*absence and persistent absence decreases so that they are more in line with the national average (Despite leaders' and governors' best efforts... some pupils do not arrive at school punctually and regularly. Some parents insist on taking their children out of school during term time. This has a direct impact on many pupils' learning and progress...')

We will continue to update you on further strategic school planning and look forward to sharing a great deal more successes with you as we move forwards into an even brighter future at Gaddesden Row JMI School.

May I take this opportunity to thank the great many parents who completed the online questionnaire and sent messages to the Ofsted Inspector in support of the school. The Staff, Governors and I greatly appreciate this.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Clare Talbot

Headteacher