

22nd November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now received the final version of the report from our recent Ofsted inspection which we are pleased to attach for your information; we hope you agree this is an excellent reflection of our school. Four Elms was one of the first schools in the country to be inspected under the new Ofsted Framework which was launched in September. The new framework focuses on five specific areas which are:

- Quality of education
- Leadership and management
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Early years

You will see that the report reflects the judgement on each of these areas. The new framework means that the style of report has also changed and is hope to be more parent friendly and not as detailed. The results can be outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. In order to be judged outstanding in an area:

'inspectors will determine whether the school meets all the criteria for good under that judgement, and does so securely and consistently. In other words, it is not enough that the school is strong against some aspects of the judgement and not against others, but it must meet each and every good criterion. In addition, there are further criteria set out under the outstanding judgement, which the school will also need to meet. (Their) aim in making this change is that schools should only be judged outstanding in a particular area if they are performing exceptionally, and this exceptional performance in that area is consistent and secure across the whole school.'

We could not be more proud of our result, not only to be judged overall as 'Good' but also to have achieved 'Outstanding' in Behaviour and Attitudes. During feedback with the inspectors, two other areas were also considered under the 'Outstanding' category, Personal Development and Early Years. Quality of Education and Leadership and Management also achieved all of the 'Good' criteria and the school are currently achieving the majority of criteria within 'Outstanding'.

Due to the format of the report, not all of the fantastic feedback we received was included. We had lengthy conversations with the inspectors who highlighted areas of strength within their findings. We have detailed below some of the feedback we received which we would like to share with you.

- Art work was exceptional due to the teacher's strong subject knowledge. Children were articulate when explaining their learning and how they progress in this subject.
- Teaching and learning in most subjects are strong due to high expectations based on a clear understanding of progression of knowledge and skills and pupils are given sufficient time to become proficient.
- We are an inclusive school.

- There were no low level disruptions as children were utterly attentive and ready to learn which is based on mutual respect for all, both staff and pupils. All staff reinforce high expectations of behaviour. There are warm, positive relationships that permeate through the school.
- The personal development of the school is a strength. There is a strong sense of justice and leaders ensure learning about diversity takes place. Children use the Rights Respecting curriculum to encourage debates, discussing and appreciating differing opinions.
- The outcomes for pupils (statutory tests) have improved significantly.
- Safeguarding is effective and the school are fully compliant with regular safeguarding updates for all staff.
- Leaders are ambitious for all pupils and there are strong leaders at all levels, including middle leaders.
- All pupils receive a high quality education that prepares them for life.
- Attendance exceeds national expectations.
- Early years provision is very strong. Pupils enjoy learning and are given opportunities.

Both Miss McCann and I are incredibly proud of the achievements of Four Elms and would like to thank both parents and pupils for supporting the school through the period of transition since the change in leadership.

I am sure you will agree that we are fortunate to have such dedicated, passionate and hardworking staff that go above and beyond for all of the pupils in our fantastic school.

To celebrate, we are inviting the families of Four Elms to join us after school next Friday (29th November 3.15pm) in the central Area for cake and drinks.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Mitchell & Miss McCann
Executive Headteacher and Head of School