



William Gilbert Endowed (Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



12th December 2023

Dear Parents

Following Ofsted's recent visit to our school, it gives me great pleasure to be able to share the final report with you.

The inspectors spent two full days observing and scrutinising all aspects of school life with an emphasis on the Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Leadership and Management, Personal Development, and our Early Years Provision.

All safeguarding procedures were thoroughly examined and highly commended by the lead inspector. Time was spent with all senior staff, subject leaders, non-teaching staff, parents, governors, trustees and children.

The findings of the inspection have now been published and we are delighted to inform you that William Gilbert School was graded as OUTSTANDING in all areas.

This is a fantastic achievement for the whole school family, and I hope that you feel as proud as we do. This outcome reflects the daily dedication and efforts of all staff and the continued support from the whole school community.

Your children were exemplary during the inspection. I was extremely proud of their maturity, polite and courteous conduct when speaking to the inspectors, and their passion and enthusiasm when sharing their wealth of knowledge and enjoyment in their learning. Their ability to engage with the inspectors and to answer questions was remarkable. They were a credit to you, to the school and to themselves.

The report praises the school for how "*pupils thrive academically and in their wider personal development*" that "*everybody is treated equally*" and noted that "*the school's vision for excellence permeates throughout the school*".

The report praises classroom practice and says that "*pupils are 'challenged, excited by their learning, and inspired to be lifelong learners.'*" Inspectors recognised the exemplary behaviour of our pupils stating, "*this is because they know what is expected of them and they live up to those expectations.*" The school's Early Years provision was also praised noting that "*children in the early years get off to a flying start*" with exciting and purposeful activities that create "*curious, independent, and happy learners.*"



Other positive comments we would like to celebrate from the report included:

- The school has a clear and ambitious curriculum. There are highly consistent approaches to teaching and assessment to plan and support pupils learning.
- Pupils are proud to belong to this caring school. They are happy and feel safe.
- The Christian ethos of the school supports pupils to develop strong moral values.
- The school has ensured that reading sits at the very heart of the curriculum and as a result pupils love to read.
- The nurture and care for vulnerable pupils is exemplary.
- The curriculum to promote pupils' personal development is praiseworthy.

Of course, these are standards which have been sustained and enhanced since the previous full inspection in 2008 and I'm sure you will realise that the legacy left by Mrs Sue Whyld was one of high expectations, always striving for improvement and ever raising the bar.

I feel privileged to have had the benefit of acting as Mrs Whyld's deputy over several years. We worked together tirelessly to ensure that the school was providing the best education and outcomes for the children and, since becoming Head, I have worked hard to sustain this level of achievement while also looking to move the school forward in new directions.

However, I am mindful that no school is perfect. Although we are very proud of this outstanding grading there are always areas where the school can continue to learn and improve. I am a passionate advocate of strong links between home, school, and the wider community and, with this in mind, my door is always open and I am prepared to listen.

I was heartened to learn from the inspectors how overwhelmingly positive parents were about the school, so, once again, thank you.

I do hope that you will take the time to read the full report which is attached.

With the support of a new deputy head teacher and a dedicated and committed staff, I will continue to strive for excellence for the benefit of your children in our caring, safe, and inclusive environment, which allows every child to flourish.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Britten
Headteacher