



Inspiring children through excellence

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

OFSTED Inspection 27th & 28th February 2019

As you are aware, the school was recently inspected by OFSTED. A copy of their published report is attached to this letter. Before commenting on this, on behalf of the school and the OFSTED Inspectors, we would like to thank our pupils who were hugely impressive throughout both days of the inspection. Furthermore, thank you to the parents/carers who shared their views on the school and spoke to the Inspectors.

We would encourage all parents and carers to read the report carefully. However, we have summarised some key findings detailed in the report.

Overall Effectiveness

The Dawnay's overall effectiveness was judged as "*Requires Improvement*", because the inspectors identified pupil outcomes, consistency of teaching and the consistency of the quality of leadership require improvement. We are pleased to be rated as "*Good*" in two areas; Personal Development, Pupil Behaviour and Welfare and Early years provision.

The school has the following strengths

The OFSTED Inspectors identified strengths that included judging Early Years Provision and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare as "*Good*".

- The report identifies that our school is a safe place for our children. We were pleased that our safeguarding procedures and practice have been recognised as robust. Our pupils also said that they felt safe and well cared for.
- The Inspectors commented that pupils' behaviour is good, they have excellent manners, and they are welcoming and proud to be part of The Dawnay.
- The Inspectors also observed that pupils have good opportunities for art, music, PE, visits and activities.
- The Inspectors highlighted the strengths of our early years provision where children settle well in the "caring and nurturing learning environment", the leadership is strong and there is a stimulating and inviting learning environment both inside and out.
- Governors know the school well and have worked hard with senior leaders to ensure a clear action plan is in place, focusing on developing teaching and improving pupils' learning and progress.
- New leaders have the drive and ambition to get the very best for pupils at The Dawnay. The school is well placed to make rapid improvements.

We are encouraged by these positives. However, we do not underestimate the work required to ensure the every aspect of our school is consistently "*Good*" and "*Outstanding*" every day.

What the school needs to do to improve further

The OFSTED Inspectors identified three priority areas for improvement.

- Improve the effectiveness of leadership and management. The Inspectors noted that the school had experienced a number of leadership changes over the last couple of years. The appointment of an Executive Leader and Head of School in January 2019 has already led to improvements. We now must develop all our leaders to ensure the improvement initiatives continue.
- Improve teaching so that it is good or better. The Inspectors noted that although there is evidence of good teaching, the improvements seen in some areas must be built upon to deliver consistently high expectations in all classrooms.
- Improve the attainment and progress of pupils by the end of key stage 2. As we have previously acknowledged, outcomes have not been good enough. However, the Inspectors recognised that overall standards are now improving. The changes made by the new School Leadership Team to support improvements in attainment and progress now need to embed to ensure the improvement continues.

Conclusion

It is clear from the above; the Inspectors' assessment of The Dawnay's overall effectiveness is complex. Although we are judged as "*Requires Improvement*", the report identifies many positives of which we are proud. Whilst we know we have work to do to ensure our children meet their full potential, the OFSTED report recognises that we are on the right track improving our school to ensure better outcomes for our pupils.

Next steps

As previously advertised, we would like to repeat the offer to all our parents and carers to come into school on Thursday 21st to attend a parent forum session at either 9am, 3:30pm or 7pm. If you haven't done so already, please contact the school office to confirm your attendance.

At the forum we will give more feedback on the Ofsted report, update you on the school improvement actions at The Dawnay, and share some important staffing news for KS1 and KS2 for the summer term.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly each term about the improvements made at The Dawnay School. In the meantime, if you have a specific question or query, relating to your own child, please contact the school office to make an appointment with the appropriate person.

Finally we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A. Moses
Executive Leader

Mrs A. Di Giovanna
Chair of Governors