



Our Vision:

An inclusive learning community where everyone is welcome. Children are curious about and engaged with the world around them; grow into kind and respectful young people, who have the courage and confidence to thrive as global citizens.

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we can now share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 17th and 18th October 2023.

The Inspector carried out subject deep dives, spoke to children in all year groups, looked at support for pupils with SEND as well as provision for high achieving pupils, and met leaders, other staff, parents and governors. She also noted the strength of support for children's well-being.

The school continues to be rated GOOD in all areas: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership. This means that we have retained our overall **GOOD** rating.

Equally importantly, the report reflects the energy, kindness and pride which are so evident across the school community, and notes that "pupils' thirst for learning continues throughout the school, with pupils rising to the challenges they are set". Pupils feel safe and enjoy coming to school. We are pleased as Governors that the inspection noted children "thrive in this vibrant environment" as this is certainly a view we share.

The Board of Governors consider this an excellent achievement for the school. This is a very strong report in spite of the challenges faced by children and staff during and since the pandemic, and the many pressures facing schools at the moment. During one meeting, the inspector reflected that **Otford is a very special place**, a statement that the Board of Governors wholeheartedly agrees with.

Unusually for an inspection report, only one development point is included. We agree with the need to continue embedding the Cornerstones Curriculum across non-core subjects, which had already been identified and prioritised by the school. The school continues to focus on this area and it was noted by OFSTED that the curriculum is ambitious in intent and design. The report notes that "staff feel valued, supported and proud of the school," and we are confident they have the support and skills needed to move forward with the next step of the school's improvement journey.

Otford is a school where children have varied, creative and inclusive opportunities to learn, in ways that extend far beyond the core curriculum, and the report recognises the “high expectations and aspirations for pupils”. Children at Otford are, for good reason, proud of their learning and their school. As regular visitors to the school, Governors can see the children’s energy and enthusiasm, as well as their incredible kindness and respect. We’re delighted that the Inspector recognised this too.

The report also praises new facilities, including the library. We would like to take this opportunity to again thank all parents, and in particular the PTFA, who work hard every year to make it possible for the school to provide such quality facilities.

We would also like to recognise the enthusiasm and dedication of staff all through the school, and thank them for the vital role they all play in making Otford such a special place. We’re so pleased that their skill and commitment have been highlighted in the report.

Overall, we are delighted with this report. As we look to the future we are confident that Otford will continue to develop, as we have proven that we are and will remain a proactive school. We feel confident that the systems and structures are in place to secure the best possible outcomes for ALL children, and this has been acknowledged by OFSTED.

We are exceptionally proud of the entire school community, and would like to recognise the ongoing commitment of pupils, families and staff that has contributed to this result. We look forward to sharing more special moments with you and your families over the coming weeks, as children begin to prepare for Nativity plays, carol concerts and other festive celebrations.

With very best wishes,

Paul Jackaman and Hannah Thomas
Co-Chairs (on behalf of the Board of Governors)

Note on the inspection process: Otford has been rated GOOD since 2013, so in line with normal practice, the recent Ofsted visit was an ‘ungraded’ inspection. This means that we are not provided with updated ratings of the four Ofsted inspection areas, which you might have seen on other Ofsted reports. However, the school was still subject to a detailed two-day inspection process.