

SONNING CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ligugé Way, Sonning, Berkshire RG4 6XF

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Headteacher

Mr P Sherwood

05 March 2024

RE: OFSTED INSPECTION 23/24 JANUARY 2024: REPORT PUBLISHED

Dear staff, parents/carers/guardians and other community members,

We are pleased to announce the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection report. This report will soon be available on the Ofsted website (and available via a link on our school website). Please do take time to read the report in full, as it highlights some excellent examples of what Ofsted describe as our “exceptional school”.

As a reminder, this is an ungraded inspection, which means our school’s grade could not change as a result of the inspection. However, we are delighted to have the statement in our report that says “the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might be outstanding if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. The school’s next inspection will be a graded inspection.” This means we will be inspected sooner than usual (within 1 to 2 years).

Whilst the one-word judgements help to use as a quick glance, we would also encourage our families to look beyond the fact that our judgement remains ‘Good’, and to focus on some of the comments about our school as a whole. In particular, we are proud of the recognition that our pupils “describe their school as being like ‘another home’ because of the support provided” and that “pupils flourish”. Please see the infographic poster at the end of this letter, which highlights some of the key comments from our report.

It is also worth noting that there were no areas for development identified in the report. However, as part of our continued desire to develop, improve, grow and provide even more for our pupils, we will continue to develop and sharpen our offer. We all remain firmly committed to providing the very best education and overall school experience for your child/ren.

As part of this letter, we would like to extend our thanks to a few groups: firstly, our pupils for being wonderful advocates for our school. Secondly, to our staff for the incredible effort and skill they put in to all aspects of school life on a daily basis. This passion for providing the best for the pupils of Sonning happens every day, and is inspiring to see. The collective drive of our staff is exceptional. Next, thanks go to our governors for their commitment to raising standards and supporting the strategic direction of the school; they are completely committed to the school and we are proud to work with them. Also, to our TKAT leaders/trustees for their strategic oversight and support for our school leaders, staff and pupils. Finally, to our incredible families and community members for their continued support of Sonning and our ethos for pupil development and helping build strong foundations for the years ahead.

We are sure you will agree that the report emphasises a number of our strengths and is excellent validation for our work, not just in new projects and systems put in place in the time since I arrived in September 2022, but in all the years since March 2016 when we were last inspected. Rest assured that we will continue working our hardest to provide the very best for your child/ren, academically and pastorally, and we are excited about the future for Sonning.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Phil Sherwood
Headteacher

Mrs Clare Borsberry-Lewis
Chair of Governing Body



Building strong foundations for the years ahead (Matthew 7:24-25)





SONNING PRIMARY

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

An “exceptional school” - Ofsted, January 2024

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we are pleased to share a few of the key comments from the report. We are very proud of our pupils, staff, governors, families and wider community.

“the curriculum is very well planned”

“phonics teaching is highly effective”



“all pupils, including those with SEND, learn quickly and confidently remember what they have been taught”



“exceptional school”
“pupils flourish”
“pupils achieve highly”



“very strong relationships across the school”



“reading is a priority for pupils of all ages”



“highly effective lessons”
“behaviour in lessons is exceptionally good”



“centre of the village community”

“teachers have very strong subject knowledge”



“highly ambitious approach to pupils’ wider development”

Building strong foundations for the years ahead (Matthew 7:24-25)

Love - Courage - Respect - Aspiration - Curiosity

Ligugé Way, Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire RG4 6XF

