

Lexden Springs School

Winstree Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 0PZ



Attend Aspire Achieve

18 December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to be able to share a full copy of the school's latest inspection report with you all. As you may be aware the inspection was completed over a two-day period on 3 and 4 December this year after an inspection on 15 January.

As you may recall, the outcome of the visit in January concluded that there was sufficient evidence that education in the school could be adjudged as "outstanding" and therefore inspectors would return to complete a 2 day visit within a reasonably short period of time.

Unfortunately in September 2019 the Ofsted framework changed and school became aware from other inspected schools that achieving the "outstanding" outcome was going to be much less likely. All staff therefore found the inspection very intensive but responded in their usual way and clearly impressed the inspectors. The inspectors clearly recognised the hard work and commitment of all staff and concluded that the teachers make sure that they know the exact needs of the children when they start school and that the curriculum is based securely on the needs of the pupil.

It has always been the aim of the school to know each pupil as an individual, to understand their specific needs and disabilities, to develop important life skills and nurture independence so that when they leave us they have grown in confidence and are able to contribute and take part in the wider community. Ofsted clearly recognised these aims and the success that is achieved.

The teaching was described as "skilful" and both the behaviour and attitudes of our pupils and the early years provision was adjudged to be Outstanding, with all other areas remaining Good.

Ofsted were very satisfied that the arrangements for safeguarding are effective and recognise that it is, and will remain, a top priority for the school and recognised that the children in early years are happy and safe and that before they leave as young adults, they have wonderful opportunities to access a range of work experiences and are well supported in the transition to adult life.

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I would like to thank all parents and carers who completed the parental survey on-line at the time of the inspection. The comments were helpful but you are always invited to provide feedback at any time during the school year.

Whilst the school would clearly have wished to become Outstanding, it is recognised that the delay in the follow up inspection has meant that they were judged under a completely new framework but the outcome remains a very positive one. School will however look very carefully at the issues that Ofsted raised and strive to continue to provide the highest standard of education and support in every way for each individual pupil during their school journey.

Please feel free to contact Simon Wall or myself via the school, if you wish to discuss any aspect of the report.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Croft
Chair of Governors