

Dear Parents and Families

Ofsted Report 2022

Nearly four months ago, Ofsted inspected our school over a period of two days. Whilst they found many positive things to report they also raised some concerns. We disagreed with the concerns they raised and issued a complaint. Late last week we were very disappointed to find out our complaint was not upheld and you will find the full report attached. This will become a public document on Friday 10th February.

During the visit, when the Inspectors said that some pupils don't learn as well as they could, we presented them with our Summer 2022 data which clearly shows that we are above, or in line, with National levels and above or in line with Bucks data too. Which we believe to be a factual indicator of good teaching and learning over time.

	Foxes Piece	Bucks	National
Early Years Data	75%	64%	65%
Y 1 Phonics Data	75%	75%	75%
KS2 Combined Data	62%	61%	59%

The judgements that Inspectors made against the teaching and learning were also challenged. The three visiting inspectors spent, out of a possible 15hrs in class, less than two hours with the children! They didn't even visit all the classes and we have pointed out that the sweeping judgements they have made are not an accurate reflection of the good quality teaching that takes place daily at Foxes Piece. Our website details a wealth of planning documentation, subject overviews and termly plans that Inspectors were able to evaluate but despite this being similar, and in some cases exactly the same as other schools, the Inspectors wanted to see more detail.

We were also particularly unhappy about the Inspectors comments about reading as we have invested heavily in new books, a new phonic scheme, training for staff and our (externally marked and verified) reading data is again positive.

	Percentage achieving Age Expected Level	Percentage achieving Greater Depth	Average Point Score (100 = secondary school ready)
Reading Data achieved in KS2 SATS 2022	72%	21%	103

Another area we disagreed with was that we don't always adapt learning well enough for pupils with Special Educational Needs. We have a truly dedicated Inclusion Team who are proactive, dedicated and relentless in their support of children with additional barriers to their learning. We have many families who have joined our school to access our specialist and nurturing support for their children that they felt was missing in other schools. It is very disappointing to see that Inspectors were not able to appreciate this during their inspection.

I do appreciate that all schools need to have an external 'pair of eyes' to look at what is and isn't working and suggest development points, but I strongly disagree with the downgrading to 'Requires Improvement' that has been levelled at our school. It has been a very bruising experience for our teachers and staff and we are all in agreement that this report and judgement does not accurately reflect our school.

We were very pleased that our strong culture of safeguarding practice was acknowledged and recognised as a particular strength in our feedback. Inspectors also reported that they received 100% positive feedback from the parent and families survey and they reported that this was unheard of! Thank you so much for your support.

Over the next few days, I am very happy to meet and talk with parents about the report and will make myself readily available to talk in greater depth and allay any worries or concerns that families may have.

Our next steps are to continue to address any issues that they are focused on and ask them to return to us as soon as possible to enable us to return to the 'good' category where we feel we belong.