



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Ofsted Inspection Outcome

As you are aware, earlier in the term we were visited by two inspectors to complete a two-day, graded inspection.

The last inspection in July 2021 was an ungraded inspection which confirmed the school had maintained its overall judgement as a 'Good' school. As of September 2024, one-word judgements were abolished and from November 2025, Ofsted introduced an entirely new framework. It is important to note that the new framework and judgements do not compare or correlate to what came before. This is a significant shift in how schools are inspected and the bar is rightly high to ensure we provide the best start for our children. Under the new framework, we were judged in 7 areas and I am delighted alongside a copy of the full report to share the standards achieved in each area:

Personal Development & Wellbeing	Strong Standard
Curriculum & Teaching	Expected Standard
Attendance & Behaviour	Expected Standard
Leadership & Governance	Expected Standard
Early Years	Expected Standard
Achievement	Expected Standard
Inclusion	Expected Standard

New judgements explained:

Strong Standard: This marks out excellent, consistent work that's making a real difference for children and learners. Leaders are working above the standards expected of them.

Expected Standard: The 'expected standard' is just that – it means the school is doing everything that it should be doing. It is a **high** standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve. The school is following the standards set out in statutory and non-statutory legislation.

I am so proud to see a green judgement for all seven areas inspected and that Ofsted could see the rapid journey of improvement we have been on over the last 18 months and this is testament to the support, energy and commitment of our staff, parents, governors and wider community who all have the shared

ambition to make Great Gaddesden a wonderful place for our children to start their education journey. I am particularly pleased that the inspectors could see that Personal Development and Wellbeing stood out as a significant strength of our school which is reflected by being awarded 'strong standard'. Behaviour also came out as being a continued strength as well, but this judgement sits jointly with attendance and whilst inspectors recognised we have made rapid improvements with attendance, there is still some further progress to be made to reach the strong standard. Here are some of the many quotes that stood out to me when reading the report:

"Pupils enjoy their time at this small, friendly school. They attend regularly with happy smiles and enthusiasm for the day ahead"

"The school has pupils' wellbeing and personal development at the heart of its work."

"Pupils develop as curious, resilient and reflective individuals"

"Pastoral support is a strength of the school"

"Pupils make secure progress in their learning as they move through the school."

"Across the curriculum, pupils learn deeply about diversity and equality"

"Leaders work hard to establish a well sequenced, ambitious curriculum"

"Leaders work hard to further develop and strengthen support for pupils with SEND"

"Working together, leaders have clarified and built on the school vision. This is at the heart of their work and helps to create a united sense of purpose"

"Governors and leaders are committed to building a cohesive, collaborative and effective staff team. They manage change carefully, so that staff understand the rationale for decisions"

"Leaders check that agreed priorities are being put in place and make the right difference for pupils. During the recent period of change, leaders have been mindful of staff wellbeing"

"There are rapid, significant improvements in pupils' attendance."

"Behaviour around the school is very sensible and kind".

"Leaders have established and celebrate a culture of positive behaviour".

"Relationships between staff and pupils are consistently respectful and kind. This helps pupils to feel safe. They know the adults care about them."

In addition to our excellent SIAMS inspection from July 2025, it is very heartening that two external, rigorous inspections within the last six months have found such great practice throughout all areas of school life. The development points from both the SIAMS and Ofsted report will form the focus for our next two year development plan.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in continuing to make our small school with a big heart a place that provides a great start for all of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Beach