



Deepdene School
195 New Church Road
Hove
BN3 4ED

Phone: 01273 418984

Fax: 01273 415543

Email: secretary@deepdeneschool.com

11 November 2015

Subject: OFSTED REPORT

Dear Parents

You may be aware that Ofsted often visits schools unannounced and recently our School received one of those visits. We are one of the first schools in the country to be inspected under the New Common Framework which came into force on the 1st September 2015.

The report highlighted a number of areas where our policies and practices needed to be further updated in line with new regulatory requirements. As a result the Ofsted report has not been as positive as we have been used to.

This is hugely disappointing and while we feel the report fails to capture the true essence of a school like Deepdene, we wanted to let you know we have already acted decisively to ensure that the policy updates are now complete and to make the other improvements suggested in the report.

The purpose of this letter is to reassure you that issues raised by Ofsted have already been addressed or are in the process of being dealt with.

The main issue outlined by Ofsted was that our Safeguarding Policy was not yet up to date following recent changes. On the 26th June 2015 all of our policies were compliant as confirmed by our Ofsted Nursery Inspection.

As you know the safety of all our pupils at Deepdene is paramount. On page five in the report Ofsted confirm that 'school leaders and teachers keep pupils safe on a day to day basis... pupils are safe and know that adults in the school are there to help them.'

Rest assured that the policy has now been fully updated and can be read on our website:
<http://www.deepdeneschool.com/page34/page34.php>

As the School's updated Safeguarding Policy was not fully in place, the way every other aspect of the School was reported by Ofsted was affected. It meant we could no longer be regarded as 'outstanding'. You may well feel that is unfair, and we too are disappointed, but the inspectors were right to highlight this, and no doubt other schools will face similar issues as they implement the new government guidelines.

Deepdene is a privately-owned School with Proprietor Heads and that makes us different. We

are proud of that and the many advantages that this brings. We have complete faith and confidence in our wonderful teaching staff, including our new arrivals who had to deal with an Ofsted inspection so soon after taking up their posts and who have already thrown themselves into life here at Deepdene. We all believe the measures already taken, and our combined desire to keep improving, will be reflected in our next report which we hope will be within a few months.

When walking around the school every day we see happy pupils enjoying life at Deepdene, enjoying learning in a safe environment, challenged by an exciting and diverse curriculum and invigorated by the many extra-curricular activities we offer. We hope that is the picture you also see.

As ever, we have an open door policy at Deepdene. If you have any questions or would like to talk through any of the points raised please speak to Miss Taylor to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with us.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Brown
Headteacher and Co-Proprietor

Nicola Gane
Head of Nursery and Co-Proprietor