



FITTLEWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL

School Lane, Fittleworth, West Sussex, RH20 1JB

Telephone: 01798 865419

E-mail: head@fittleworth.school

Headteacher: **Mrs Deborah Burnett**



Wednesday, 18 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Ofsted Inspection 13 and 14 May 2025 and Published Report

Following our recent Ofsted visit in May 2025, we are now able to share the published report with you, this accompanying letter provides further information shared with us by the inspector, immediately following the visit, which adds to what is in the summative published report.

The published report alongside the feedback received following the Ofsted inspection indicates that the breadth of learning opportunity for personal, social and spiritual understanding is generally good. Creating opportunities through sport, dance, art and wider creative expression facilitate rounded learning. However, there are areas of continued and ongoing development. The report indicates that the schools' values are known and adopted by pupils and **"the school promotes a strong focus on creating responsible and active pupils"**.

Whilst the report indicates that the school meets and exceeds requirements in certain aspects there are still areas in need of development and improvement. Over the last 18 months governors have been working with the school, local authority and diocese to undertake greater rigour through heightened and more detailed observation, strategic delivery and monitoring of the curriculum. The report identifies that progress has been made, recognises the school is on a journey and supports the direction of travel while holding ourselves as governors and the school leadership to account in improving the quality of education for all.

The report places a strong emphasis on the nurturing and engaging nature of our early years education, recognising it as a particular strength. Inspectors highlighted how **"children develop their communication and language skills effectively"** and **"pupils at the earliest stages of reading are learning well."** This reflects our commitment to creating a supportive and stimulating environment where young learners feel confident to explore language and literacy. Through carefully structured activities, high-quality interactions, and a focus on early reading strategies, we ensure that children build strong foundational skills that will support their future learning. We are proud of this recognition and will continue to refine and enhance our approach to early years education, ensuring every child receives the best possible start.

Maths has been a central focus of our School Development Plan for several years, so receiving such positive feedback from the inspectors was a real highlight. Their comments affirmed that the subject is well embedded, with strong planning and sequencing, and that children can confidently articulate their learning. As a core curriculum subject, we remain committed to maintaining this good practice and extending this effective approach across all areas of learning.

We recognise that in a small school, the range of knowledge, learning and ability varies across all disciplines, academic and creative; as a result we will be closely monitoring attainment data, through grades predicted and outcomes obtained, working with subject leaders to ensure subject areas are embedded, and fundamentals of knowledge continue to be developed, demonstrated through practice and assessed thoroughly. However, we recognise as a positive how well **"the school identifies and meets the needs of pupils with special educational needs"**.

We are aware that whilst attendance is mostly good, there are pockets of regular sickness, persistent absence, and election by some to take pupils on holidays during term time. Some of these absences are unavoidable, however others are recognised to be a detriment to those individuals' learning and can hamper the wider learning for school cohorts. Therefore, as a school leadership, we are encouraging you to consider these implications in decisions made for your children's education.

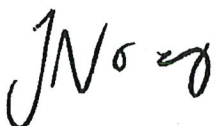
We are a busy school and work hard to support each other in our immediate and wider community to receive the opportunities to learn and develop, adhering to our own wellbeing and striving to be the best we can be.

The inspectors conducted a thorough evaluation of safeguarding, carefully reviewing the single central record and gathering insights from leaders, staff, and pupils. Their assessment highlighted the school's commitment to fostering an open and positive safeguarding culture that prioritizes pupils' well-being. By placing pupils' interests at the heart of its approach, the school ensures that safeguarding is not just a policy but a deeply embedded practice. This strong, proactive stance reflects a collective dedication to creating a safe and supportive environment where every child feels protected, valued, and heard.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the published report, please do reach out to us about them. We would be happy to speak with you regarding the inspection, the ways we will be aiming to maintain what is good and progress towards improving where required.

Lastly, we know that Fittleworth has a strong community feel, supporting the children across a rich and varied curriculum, we will continue this and build upon it with thorough monitoring and challenge, observing the wider curriculum and learning, and positively strengthening the strategic leadership and day-to-day management of quality education across and throughout our village school.

Your sincerely,



Mr J Nodding
Chair of the Governing Body
chair@fittleworth.school



Mrs D Burnett
Head Teacher
head@fittleworth.school