

Ofsted Report Meeting – Jane Holt

Firstly, I want to thank all of the staff, governors and the Local Authority for their overwhelming support since the Ofsted Inspection. I also want to thank the parents for the kind words and emails following the receipt of the Ofsted report on Friday. I am sure you have all experienced a real mixture of emotion reading it. I still do, 8 weeks on. However, from day two of the Inspection it has been hands on to strengthen the areas that were graded 'Inadequate'. On receiving the call from Ofsted, I can say that I was not dreading the inspection. I was proud to show off the great work that is going on at Charlbury School. The day started very well, and it was clear that teaching and learning in all classes was good, the love of learning shone through. Watching children play at break, eating a healthy lunch in the hall – such positives.

SAFEGUARDING: During the afternoon, questions arose regarding 'safeguarding' and it soon became apparent that issues needed to be addressed. I understand that you all, as parents, must be concerned about the safety of your children in school. I can assure you that your child is safe at Charlbury. If Ofsted believed the school to be unsafe, then it would have been closed immediately. The Ofsted Inspection did not identify any specific cases where pupils came to harm in school and their concern was about the *potential* risks. They emphasised that we needed to ensure that our systems were more thorough in order to mitigate any of these risks. We accepted the judgement of Ofsted that, although there were safeguarding policies and procedures in place, they were not sufficiently systematic or rigorous and that practice and policies differed in places. In December, the school

commissioned an external Safeguarding audit which took place in February which the Governors have subsequently questioned the validity of their audit processes. Whilst this audit didn't raise any areas of significant concern, given Ofsted's findings we have worked with the Safeguarding team from the Local Authority to strengthen our systems, in particular, systematic and chronological record keeping as well as ensuring all training is refreshed and certificates are up-to-date. We are very confident that our new School Business Manager, Catriona Pitt has already organised a detailed system so that Safeguarding and welfare requirements are met every day including up to date training logs for every member of staff, courses booked in advance and reminders.

EARLY YEARS: Despite the teaching, learning and results in Early Years being good, one paediatric certificate was out of date. Ofsted therefore rated the statutory welfare requirements in the Early Years as not being met, and this unfortunately led to the 'Inadequate' rating. This has since been rectified as the certificate is now up-to-date. Thus, meeting the welfare requirement. In fact, 15 members of staff have recently undertaken paediatric first aid training, thanks to our new Business Manager for organising this.

ATTENDANCE: Regarding attendance, our average school attendance is just over 96% and average attendance for those pupils in receipt of pupil premium is over 92%. Ofsted were concerned that the attendance of a very small number of 'vulnerable' pupils was lower than 90%. We are continuing to work with these families to increase attendance.

BULLYING: As for bullying, we have recognised the need to update our systems and procedures for recording and reporting bullying. All staff have been made aware of these. However, on our action plan, we also want to create a working group

involving pupils, staff, parents and governors to further improve this area. We want and need to all be crystal clear about what is acceptable behaviour and what is not in all aspects of school life.

BEHAVIOUR: Fortunately, the overall behaviour of pupils here at Charlbury is very good and this was seen on the first day of Inspection. Ofsted did note, however, on the second day, that teasing was witnessed in one class but that the staff member dealt with it appropriately. Since the Inspection we have developed new ways of recording behavioural incidents.

I hope I have already covered some of the questions that you may want answers to, however, I am more than happy to answer further questions later in the meeting. I want to reassure you all that we immediately recognised both the seriousness of some of the findings and the need for swift and decisive action. The action plan will be shared with you all in due course to report on the progress we have been making. I was and still am proud to be the Headteacher of this lovely school filled with engaging pupils, dedicated staff and governors and supportive parents. I am determined for us to achieve at least Ofsted's 'Good' rating in the near future.