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**Headteacher : Mr J Rielly**

Thursday 26th February

### **Publication of our latest Ofsted Report**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, I received word that our latest Ofsted Inspection Report will be published on this [website](#) by Monday 2nd March. However, I am allowed to publish it on our school website too, so you can access it [here](#) immediately.

Overall, I am proud of the evaluative comments in this report which are a direct result of the kindness, professionalism and hard work of the Downlands Family. I am particularly pleased with the descriptions of 'what it is like to be a pupil at this school':

- "Pupils are warmly looked after during their time at Downlands School"
- "Pupils and their families become part of an inclusive and caring community"
- "Pupils behave respectfully and show understanding towards one another"

In relation to Attendance and Behaviour:

- "Pupils enjoy coming to school"
- "Pupils respect the high expectations set by leaders"
- "Pupils thrive in a nurturing and supportive community"
- "Pupils are...respectful to others"
- "Discriminatory behaviour is rare"

In relation to Early Years:

- "(EYFS classes) provide a well-organised and purposeful environment that prepares children well for their transition to Key Stage 1"
- Leaders have a clear understanding of the frequent moves that some children may have experienced...They work closely with parents and carers"
- "Staff have high quality interactions with children"

In relation to Inclusion:

- “Leaders are highly inclusive in their work to support pupils”
- “Leaders know that pupils who have attended several schools may not have their needs identified effectively. They work closely with external professionals and families to assess needs and put meaningful support in place”
- “Many pupils who join the school speak English as an additional language. The school plans learning carefully to support those pupils, who integrate well into the school community”

In relation to personal development and well being:

- “...pupils develop their understanding of fundamental British Values alongside the school’s own values. This helps them to act with integrity”
- “Pupils celebrate difference and diversity”
- “The school focuses carefully on pastoral care to support pupils whose families move regularly, or whose friendship groups may change as a result”

In relation to achievement:

- “Leaders have ensured the curriculum is well planned”
- “More pupils who are at the early stages of learning to read are learning their phonics securely”

In relation to curriculum and teaching:

- “Since the previous inspection, leaders have refined the curriculum so that it is well mapped and sequenced”
- “Teachers quickly get to know pupils’ starting points, which is particularly important to those moving mid-year”
- “Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well in lessons, with the right help provided so that they can learn and achieve alongside others”

In relation to leadership and governance:

- “Leaders are earnest in their work to improve the school and outcomes for pupils. They take careful account of the school’s context so that pupils who experience frequent moves are well supported.”
- “Recent work to refine the curriculum and strengthen its sequencing is now in place”
- “(Governors) understand the school’s priorities well. Many...have a military background, which helps the school to engage effectively with the community...”

The inspectors were very clear with us that 'expected standard' is a high bar within the new framework and that it is entirely normal for schools to be told that some aspects 'need attention'. It is more like an advisory note on a MOT, highlighting areas that can be strengthened further.

We will continue to address the areas that need attention, identified by Ofsted, with Governors and all staff. This report confirms that our school improvement plan is having a positive impact on this community and we will now make small revisions to this plan to help children 'build on what they know', strengthening their foundational knowledge still further.

I would be happy to talk to you about any aspect of this Ofsted report. I am available as always on Friday mornings after Gold Book Assembly or at the upcoming Parent consultations on the 9th and 13th of March.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Rielly

Headteacher