



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to inform you that the full Ofsted report from our two-day inspection in January 2023 is now available. The school was judged as a strong 'Good with Outstanding for Personal Development'. We are proud of this great outcome under the current framework and feel that many strengths of our school were seen.

Personal development is central to fulfilling human potential. It has a powerful impact on all other aspects of our lives; achievement, attitudes, relationships, shaping who we are and the difference we make to others. I am delighted that the work that we do on this fundamental aspect has been recognised by the outstanding judgement.

It has been a long wait for a full Ofsted inspection; in fact, the last one was in 2010. During this time, there have been numerous versions of the Inspection framework, a new National Curriculum and ten different Secretaries of State for Education!

I am sure that parents will read the full report with great interest. Although very positive, it is relatively short, as it has to be limited to a specific word count, therefore I would like to give some background. Our inspection was a Section 5 and this means that all areas of the inspection framework are assessed and graded unlike a shorter Section 8 inspection.

There was a rigorous focus on consistency in every curriculum area and standards in every phase across the school have to be completely secure and consistent against the criteria. The pupils are at the heart of our school and we are delighted that the inspection report highlights that *leaders and staff are ambitious for all pupils and determined to prepare pupils for learning at secondary school and also life beyond. Pupils are inspired to have a love of learning and they achieve well across the curriculum.*

Pupils' data/achievement outcomes do not feature as much in the new inspection framework. However, it is worth noting that Preston Candover CE Primary School pupils consistently achieve high academic outcomes above National and Local Authority outcomes. We remain in the top quintile of all state schools in the country for pupil attainment in reading, writing and mathematics and are extremely proud of this. Our pupils make great progress from their starting points.

Inspectors were impressed with the hard work we have been doing on our curriculum over the last few years. For example, recognising that, *leaders have carefully considered what important knowledge and skills they want pupils to learn and remember in each subject. From the start of Reception, children study an interesting and well-sequenced curriculum. They are supported to build knowledge gradually over time.*

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Safeguarding was inspected in great detail and our *record keeping was highlighted as comprehensive*, also recognising that leaders provide *high-quality training to staff so that they understand their roles and responsibilities*. I am pleased that our *pupils are confident to talk to adults in school if they have a concern and know that they will be listened to and supported*.

In terms of our ethos, I am delighted that the inspection team recognised that *pupils make a highly positive contribution to the school*. Inspectors felt that character development was a real strength of the school and this was praised in our feedback, including our focus on developing leadership habits alongside our core values. Inspectors added that *leaders promote pupils' personal and especially their spiritual development exceptionally well*.

I am extremely happy that all aspects of the school have been inspected rigorously and pleased that the lead inspector found the school's self-evaluation and improvement plans to be strong.

It is right that high standards are expected from all schools. It gives us impetus for growth and means that we will be striving to build on our achievements. We will also continue to develop newer staff to the school who have joined our dedicated team so that they benefit from the high-quality development which was recognised by the inspectors.

A huge well done to our lovely pupils for sharing their enthusiasm and thirst for learning. Thank you to our incredibly hard working staff team and to our governors for your selfless and astute support. I would also like to thank all the parents and carers who support our work because without that respectful partnership the children would not flourish as brilliantly as they do.

You are all very much appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

With best wishes

Mrs Simrit Otway

Headteacher

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