

Sheen Mount Primary School



West Temple Sheen SW14 7RT

T: 0208 876 8394

Headteacher: Tom Holmes

info@sheenmount.richmond.sch.uk
www.sheenmount.richmond.sch.uk

Tuesday 21 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted report – June 2022

Everyone involved in Sheen Mount is rightly proud of the rich education that the school delivers for our children and the strong foundation this provides for learning at secondary school and beyond.

We were pleased to welcome the Ofsted inspectors recently and to share with them all that we offer the children. The experience was a positive one and the Board believes that the rating of 'Good' with outstanding features is a fair reflection on the school in the context of this new inspection framework, at this moment in time.

Mr Holmes talks in his letter about the strengths that shone through, not all of which are fully detailed in the report - Ofsted's new policy is to keep the report short. In our detailed debrief with the inspectors, the Board were particularly pleased with the extremely positive feedback around maths, English and science, as well as the many comments about the outstanding ethos of the school – a key objective for us as we moved from a two to three-form entry school. This ethos, evidenced by the outstanding ratings for behaviour and personal development, is critical in providing an environment where the children can be happy and therefore learn at their best. As the inspector commented: *'The school environment is somewhere where pupils can thrive'* and *'They are extremely well-prepared for the next stages of their education and life in modern Britain.'*

The inspection framework

The arrival of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework, shortly before Covid, has significantly moved the goalposts in how schools are assessed. The most revolutionary change is that it places little emphasis on the children's test results (either external or internal), which would have contributed significantly to our previous outstanding judgement. Rather it focuses on the experience the children have and the way that every single subject is taught and sequenced year by year.

To use the inspectors' own words, this far more 'exacting' judgement, (meeting 64 criteria to be 'good') is overall in my view positive. However, Ofsted recognise that this represents a greater challenge for schools, effectively making it far harder to achieve outstanding.

It also means parents are only provided with part of the picture and should consider the outcome of the inspection in conjunction with the school's academic results, to provide a rounded view of all the school offers.

Our expectation and continued drive

As a school we aspire to be outstanding in everything we do.

In contrast to the core subjects of maths, English and science, the inspection highlighted some areas for further work in the wider subjects. Whilst these subjects were rated 'good' they did not meet the 'outstanding' criteria. Both the school and the Board are clear that this is now a priority, ensuring the consistency and sequencing of every subject right across the school. Progress will be monitored closely.

Whether in these areas or the ones where Ofsted assessed us 'outstanding', the Board and school will continue to work tirelessly to meet our aspiration for developing the full potential in every child. Our new headteacher, Mr Holmes, with his depth and breadth of teaching experience and leadership will spearhead future developments and innovation with the whole staff team.

In conclusion

We want to congratulate and thank the leadership team and staff for all they do every day, going above and beyond for all the children. Finally, I want to thank the children – in the inspectors' words: *'Pupils are mature, hardworking and achieve well.'* They are a credit to themselves, the school and their families. What better accolade could we all have.

For anyone considering Sheen Mount for their children, I would urge you to read the Ofsted report, explore our public academic results and above all visit our school, so you can experience for yourselves all that the school has to offer.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'J Hebert', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Justine Hebert

Chair of Governors