



Coten End Primary School

Coten End, Warwick, CV34 4NP

Tel: (01926) 491329
email: admin2623@welearn365.com
www.cotenend.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Sheepy



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Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Inspection – 6th & 7th February

As you will be well aware from my previous communications, we were inspected in February and there has been a delay in the report being published. The reason for this is that, when the draft report was issued, I raised a number of queries about some of the judgements and the way in which the inspection was conducted. I received a response to these queries which I did not find satisfactory and therefore raised a formal complaint through the Ofsted procedures. Due to the complexity and nature of the complaint, the final report was delayed. We received the final report yesterday and this will, in due course, be published on Ofsted's website.

Our school has been graded 'Good' overall with good judgements for Quality of Education, Behaviour & Attitudes and Early Years. We were graded as outstanding in Personal Development and Leadership & Management. Whilst we were disappointed to not receive the much sought after 'Outstanding' grading overall, we were very pleased with some of the individual gradings.

When we were last inspected in December 2011, we were graded 'Outstanding'. Much has changed over the years, not least the Ofsted Framework for Inspection (several times!). The majority of professionals in education and, no doubt, the general public find the Ofsted inspection process deeply flawed and it is merely a box ticking exercise in a snapshot of time - if all the boxes can't be ticked then a particular grading can't be awarded. I wrote to you back in December when the inquest into the death of Ruth Perry had taken place and reflected on the inappropriateness of the Ofsted process then.

I strongly believe that our school is in a much better place than it was 12 years ago. So much has changed and, between the previous and most recent inspection, we have strived to make Coten End a wonderful school and one in which children receive the best possible education and development.

I considered picking out quotes from the inspection report but I will let you read it for yourself. It's only a meagre two sides of A4 and that in itself is discouraging for the school, staff, pupils, parents, governors and its wider community as it does not fully reflect what our school is truly about. Whilst the report is glowing, with only one small and fairly standard area for improvement, and the comments by the inspectors were incredibly positive during their visit, it is disappointing not to have retained our outstanding grading overall.

We know, and you know, what we do and I have always admitted that we don't always get it right all of the time. Never have there been more challenges in education with reduced

funding, post Covid issues, recruitment difficulties, the increase in children's mental health concerns...the list goes on. The role of schools and educators has changed massively over the years and we have to be all things to all people making up for the deficit in social care, youth justice, health services, parenting support etc. as well as actually providing high quality teaching and learning.

I hope you read the Ofsted report and recognise many of the things that have been said but that you also reflect on what you truly know Coten End is all about. The report doesn't change anything and we will still continue to be better every day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our large school community for their ongoing support and contribution. It truly is a privilege to serve you all.

Best wishes

Sarah Sheepy