



Striving for Excellence

Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

7th February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are probably aware, we received an Ofsted inspection in November 2022. The report will be published on 7th February 2023 and will be available on both the school's website and the Ofsted website – please click on link [here](#) to view.

We are extremely disappointed to announce that the overall judgement of the Ofsted report is 'Requires Improvement', with Safeguarding being 'effective'.

The reason for the delay in the report being published was due to the school going through the Ofsted complaints procedure, which is a lengthy process and has taken up much time and effort to collate everything together and submit.

Myself, the school leadership team and the Governors submitted a complaint regarding the way data and analysis was collected and interpreted during the inspection, and how this was then reported.

The last Ofsted inspection was in 2017, when we received an overall judgement of 'Good'. Since then, we have obviously had a couple of years of disruption with COVID, and I was very proud of the way pupils and teachers alike adapted, at short notice, to different ways of teaching. It is a testament to the teaching and pastoral care that this school provides that enabled last year's Year 11 cohort to achieve the best GCSE results the school has ever had, despite having had their last few years of their education disrupted.

With this in mind, we felt we were well on track to receive an overall Ofsted judgement of 'Good'. To be told that we had gone to 'Requires Improvement' felt very much an insult to the incredible hard work of pupils, staff and governors alike.

There were elements of the report that we felt were a very unfair reflection on the school but the concerns about the inspection were as follows:

- We fundamentally believe that the report does not reflect the quality of education this school provides. To have had the best GCSE results the school has ever had and not to have them taken into consideration when compiling the report, undervalued the hard work undertaken by pupils and teachers of the 2022 Year 11 cohort. We would not have been able to achieve such high results if the curriculum was not planned and implemented, to enable pupils to gain sufficient subject knowledge.
- An external review of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) faculty took place in July 2022, with another having taken place just before Ofsted arrived in November 2022. The findings from the November report were very positive on the steps already taken by the new SENDCO, Mr Radbourne, to improve the SEND provision. We have a clear Action Plan in place, that is currently being implemented, to continue to improve our SEND provision.
- Behaviour in this school is no different to the majority of other local schools. Staff have high expectations of pupil behaviour and the vast majority of our pupils rise to these expectations. Any misbehaviour is quickly dealt with and appropriate punishments set as a deterrent.



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- Governors have always challenged the school's leadership team, through face-to-face meetings and during committee meetings. We are incredibly lucky to have a panel of Governors who willingly engage with the school and have a huge amount of knowledge and experience amongst them.

Whilst we have done all we can to object to the findings of the report, including contacting our local MP for support, we feel that Ofsted are not going to change their position on the overall judgement and therefore, reluctantly, myself, the senior leadership team and governors have agreed that we need to move on from this experience and focus on moving Kingshill forward.

With this in mind, the senior leadership team and governors have already started to put in place an Action Plan to ensure that the school responds thoroughly to the inspection findings, in time for the next inspection, which we anticipate will be within the next 2 years. We have requested an early re-inspection. We want to ensure that robust plans are in place so that the school returns to an overall judgement of 'Good'.

I understand you may have some concerns and queries, but I would ask that you read the report and question as to whether you think what has been written is a true description of the school your child attends. I have no doubt that the education your child is receiving at Kingshill School is excellent and prepares them to continue their educational journey onto their own selected pathway.

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss them, please contact me via my PA, Mrs Bryant, on rbryant@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk. I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

I wish to finish by reassuring you that we are working very hard to implement the changes that Ofsted have said are required. I would also like to thank you for your support for the school, it is very much appreciated. I strongly believe that Kingshill School is a wonderful place for children to attend and learn, and that the pupils are supported by the extremely dedicated and caring staff.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C.S. Oates
Headteacher