

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection Outcome – September 2026

I am delighted to finally be able to share with you the official findings of our most recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on **Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September 2026**.

As you may know, the Department for Education introduced a new Ofsted inspection framework in November 2025 that removes single-word headline grades (such as "Good" or "Outstanding"). Instead, schools are now assessed using an Ofsted Report Card. This report card evaluates individual core areas of school life using a five-point grading scale. These have no correlation to judgements given as part of the old framework. I have included a video link that has been previously shared on ClassDojo for our families outlining these changes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

I am delighted to inform you that our school has achieved the **'Expected Standard' across all assessed areas**. According to Ofsted, achieving the Expected Standard is a significant, high-quality benchmark. It means the school is successfully fulfilling all of its duties, fully meeting rigorous national educational and care requirements, and delivering exactly what your children need and deserve. Furthermore, I am pleased to share that our **safeguarding responsibilities were judged as fully "Met"**.

The inspectors highlighted several key strengths across our curriculum, leadership, and school environment, noting how our pupils continue to thrive both academically and socially. This secure and positive outcome is a testament to the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, the vital support of our governors but also the contributions from our wider network such as the school PTFA, our School Improvement Partners and the local organisations and charities whom we nurture links with.

The full report identifies several strengths across our school. I wanted to take the opportunity to share a selection of highlights from each of the inspection areas below:

Achievement

- *Pupils consistently secure the phonics knowledge they need to read with fluency. This allows them to access the curriculum as they progress through school.*
- *Leaders have rightly prioritised developing pupils' writing so that more pupils achieve higher standards.*

Attendance and Behaviour

- *Leaders' rigorous analysis allows them to act quickly when pupils' attendance begins to fall.*
- *Leaders provide families with targeted help when needed, including accessing services and support from external professionals.*
- *Leaders have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. They teach pupils the importance of respecting the rights of others.*
- *They celebrate each other's differences and show great respect for one another.*
- *Discrimination, harassment, abuse or violence are not tolerated.*

Curriculum and Teaching

- *Leaders have developed a broad and ambitious curriculum.*
- *There is a clear focus on ensuring that pupils secure the key foundations of learning before they move on.*
- *Pupils facing barriers to learning, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, receive appropriate support to learn the curriculum well.*



Early years

- The children in the Nursery and Reception classes get off to a flying start.
- A lot of thought and care has gone into developing learning environments that promote children's curiosity and thirst for learning.
- Children quickly develop a sense of belonging. Consequently, they feel secure, valued and ready to learn.
- Leaders are highly ambitious for children to achieve, both academically and socially.

Inclusion

- Staff work closely with parents and carers to understand the individual circumstances that each pupil faces. Leaders use this information to help pupils overcome any barriers to learning or wellbeing.
- The school's harmonious ethos fosters pupils' understanding of, and respect for, each other.
- Effective pastoral support also promotes pupils' social, emotional and mental health, including access to calm spaces when needed.
- Leaders keep a careful eye on how well pupils are progressing.

Leadership and Governance

- Leaders and governors are united in their determination to provide the very best for all pupils at Dovelands.
- The school is at the heart of this community with the pupils at the heart of the school. It has a real 'family feel'.
- Leaders understand the challenges facing the community and use this effectively to shape provision and enhance improvements.
- Leaders ensure that all pupils are valued for who they are, have a real sense of belonging and leave the school as happy, lifelong learners.

Personal Development and Wellbeing

- The personal development programme helps pupils to understand the importance of kindness and respect and how families may differ.
- Opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests are in abundance.

What it's like to be a pupil at this school

- Pupils feel a true sense of belonging in this large, diverse and vibrant school. They are unanimous in their views that, 'Everyone is welcome here, no matter who you are.'
- Pupils have lovely manners and behave well in lessons and during social times.
- The pastoral support is a strength of the school.
- They play an integral role in shaping school life, such as by organising 'Dress to Express Days' and interviewing new teachers.

Along with these secure fit outcomes for the Expected Standard, the inspection team took time to analyse areas of the Strong Standard criteria with us, in order to highlight where many elements of these gradings are already being met too. The visiting team identified elements of strength in 4 areas of the school's practice. The feedback we received during the process has validated our previously identified priorities whilst providing us with an ambitious path moving towards the next step in our journey as a school.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for working alongside us to ensure our school community remains a fantastic place for our children to learn and grow. We are so proud of how well our children presented throughout the whole process and will be in touch as we finalise plans to celebrate this!

Miss Slinger
Headteacher

