

16th July 2018

Dear Family,

Ofsted Inspection Letter – 26th June 2018

It is with great pleasure that we enclose a copy of the letter from Ofsted following the inspection of our school on 26th June 2018. The report will be on the school website <http://www.carrmanor.org.uk> on Tuesday 17th July and officially published on the Ofsted website Wednesday 18th July.

The inspection process was thorough and robust, with the team of 3 Inspectors scrutinising data, observing lessons across all year groups in both the primary and secondary phases. Inspectors held discussions with pupils, governors, staff and the Local Authority. Pupils and staff submitted questionnaires and parents completed 'parent view'.

This was the first time we had been inspected under the latest inspection framework which requires 'good and outstanding' schools to undergo a day of inspection to confirm that the school is still working at that level, that the school has addressed the 'areas for improvement' identified during the last inspection and that the school has the leadership capacity to continue to develop and improve. The aim of the inspection therefore confirms that the judgments made during the last inspection are still valid.

In February 2014 the school was judged to be at a good level of overall effectiveness; the achievement of pupils and the quality of teaching were all judged 'good' with the behaviour and safety of pupils, and leadership and management judged 'outstanding'. The 2014 report was a very clear validation of the school's work at the time and the attached letter confirms that the school has moved further forward from this already very strong position.

The letter is very positive about the school, the pupils, the staff and the whole school community. The inspection team commented upon how the school has *"the stability of an effective staff..... focused, passionate and committed to continual school improvement"* and how our four key values *"permeate throughout the entire school and underpin everything the staff and pupils do"*.

We would like to highlight some judgments in the letter that confirm our commitment to addressing any areas for improvement and the impact of our values:

- The school has *"acted swiftly to strategically review and further develop existing systems and processes for monitoring school performance"*.
- *"Leaders identify correctly areas of the school that need improvement and monitor closely the impact of their actions"*.
- *"There is strong capacity in the school's leadership to achieve the improvements that you aspire to"*.
- The school has *"tackled the areas for improvement identified in the previous inspection report successfully"*.
- The school has *"ensured that there are high expectations from pupils and staff"*.

- There is a “very strong inclusive ethos in the school. Staff and pupils feel as if they are part of a family”.
- “The relationships between staff and pupils are extremely positive. Pupils wear their uniform with pride and are respectful to each other and staff. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school. As a result, behaviour, attitudes to learning in the vast majority of lessons and conduct around the school site are very good”.
- “The school’s coaching programme is a major strength of the school. The impact of this programme on relationships between staff and pupils and the inclusive ethos of the school are impressive”.
- “Staff responsible for inclusion and attendance and behaviour, are very knowledgeable, caring and committed to the school’s ‘child centred’ approach”.
- “Pupils reported that they feel safe, know who to go to if they have any concerns and are confident that staff will deal effectively with any problems. Inspection evidence also supports this. Pupils know how to stay safe, including online”.

In September CMCS has its first Year 6 cohort and the school will become complete as a through school. This is an important moment for the school. The inspector’s judgements were focused on the through school but in places they referred to each phase:

- “In the Primary Phase the relationships between staff and pupils are strong and there is a very positive atmosphere in the lessons”.
- “Staff work tirelessly to build strong foundations for growth. Primary leaders have focused on developing writing, reading fluency and mathematics”.
- “There is a close collaboration with the staff from the secondary phase, and pupils are taught by specialist teachers in physical education, design technology, science, modern foreign languages and music”.
- “In Early Years there are positive relationships between adults and children, and children play well together”.
- “The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standards at the end of key stage 1 in reading, writing and mathematics is improving”.

The two areas in the last inspection that were judged to be good and not yet outstanding were Teaching and Learning and Outcomes. The letter states that:

- “As a result, the quality of teaching is good and improving further, questioning is used effectively to probe pupils’ understanding and challenge the vast majority of pupils, including the most able pupils”.
- “The creative curriculum ensures that teaching and learning match the needs of all pupils, including the disadvantaged and the most able pupils”.
- “The progress of pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 continues to be strong, including disadvantaged pupils, across a wide range of subjects”.
- “Evidence indicates that pupils make strong progress from their starting points”.

The Inspection team helpfully highlighted just two ‘next steps’ for the school which are already being tackled and not a concern.

Carr Manor Community School is a mature and confident school. We see this letter as a clear confirmation of the work we are doing and the way we do it. We would like to publicly thank the whole staff team for their unwavering dedication and commitment. The inspectors noted that *“the school has a strong community culture with a very strong inclusive ethos. This positive culture fosters very strong relationships between staff and pupils”*. We know that positive relationships create trust, capacity for learning and for success.

We hope you find the enclosed letter informative and encouraging.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support to the school.

Kind regards,



Simon Flowers
Executive Principal



Andrew Tidswell
Chair of Governors