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2 November 2020

David England
Executive Headteacher
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Dear Mr England

Ofsted visit to Riders Junior School

Following my visit with Aimee Floyd, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 6 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and the head of the junior school.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full education for pupils following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- The school reopened to all pupils at the start of the autumn term 2020. Almost all pupils are expected to attend full time. A small number of pupils have temporary part-time timetables.
- Pupils' attendance is similar to this time last year. Aiming to reassure parents, you have used your website to explain the measures you have put in place to help pupils stay and feel safe.
- All pupils are studying all of the subjects that they would normally do. Some subjects, such as music, are being taught in a different way so that equipment does not have to be shared by pupils. Different 'bubbles' use shared spaces such as the library and music room on different days.
- In all subjects, teachers are using lesson activities to check what pupils know and can remember from what they were taught before. You plan to carry out more formal assessments of what pupils have learned so far as the term progresses.
- You have asked teachers to focus on boosting pupils' interest in reading and their progress. The topic book collection has been extended to support this. Additionally, a new home reading programme has been introduced.
- In mathematics, you have asked teachers to focus on picking up and developing pupils' understanding and skills in number and calculation. Teachers are using the school's calculation policy to steer their teaching.
- If remote learning is required in the future, you intend this to align with what pupils would be doing if they were in school. You plan to replicate the approach you used during lockdown, sending packs of work home to pupils.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Hampshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Moles
Her Majesty's Inspector