



ASH LEA

*Working together to be
the best that we can be*

10/11/2020

Dear parents and carers,

You may have heard reports today about Ofsted's conclusions on the impact of Covid-19 on children, families and schools. Ofsted have met with schools across England as part of this process. Last Thursday, the school took part in one of these Ofsted 'visits'. These visits are to ascertain what impact Covid-19 and lockdown has had on schools and its pupils; their attendance, behaviour (including mental health and wellbeing), curriculum and issues relating to safeguarding. Under slightly more normal circumstances, inspectors visit schools. Due to current lockdown restrictions these discussions were held over Zoom. All senior leaders met with two HMI inspectors.

In addition to the areas mentioned, discussions included the provision offered to pupils and their families from other professionals. These visits are not inspections and no judgement is made on schools' abilities to manage throughout this period. Senior leaders were able to talk frankly and openly about what the school had done well and what challenges it and its whole school community had faced (and continues to). We also told them of the considerable challenges you as families have faced throughout this period. Inspectors told us that they felt incredibly humbled to hear all the school and its staff had done throughout this period. The experience felt very positive, in particular as senior leaders were able to reflect on challenges that the school had been able to overcome.

The intention is that this information is recorded and taken back to support the Department for Education's understanding of schools' experiences, which should, in turn, inform government policy. Whilst discussions were extensive and held throughout the day, the school will only receive a brief letter to summarise the experience. Parents and carers will be sent a copy of this, we are hopeful that this will be with us before Christmas.

Kind Regards

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