



Dear Parents,

### **Ofsted Inspection Framework**

Following discussions as a group of Head Teachers and further discussions with our respective Governing bodies, we have decided to write to parents as a collective group with regard to the latest Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and the impact that this is likely to have on future Inspection outcomes.

The latest framework has implications for all Schools but we wanted to make you aware of the particular implications it has on Schools, such as ours, that were judged Outstanding at their last inspection.

All Schools have a responsibility to carry out self-evaluation and, in order to do this, most make use of the evaluation schedule that is set out in the Ofsted Handbook, which is used by Inspectors during their visits to Schools. When inspected, Schools such as ours will be given a grade by inspectors for each of the following key areas:

- Leadership and Management
- The Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Safety
- Personal Development
- Early Years or Sixth Form

When deciding the grade for each key area, they consider a series of bullet points for each of the following grades:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate

Under previous Inspection Frameworks, such as those used during our last inspections, Ofsted judged our performance against the evaluation schedule using a “best-fit” model. Therefore, if Ofsted felt that a School satisfied most of the bullet points within the grade descriptors for “Outstanding” in each of the key areas, as well as all of those for “Good,” the School would have been judged to be “Outstanding” overall.

However, under the latest Inspection Framework, for a School to be judged as “Outstanding” overall, it has to be judged to meet every single grade descriptor for both Outstanding and Good, within each of the key areas, and it has to do this securely and consistently. In addition, the School’s performance in each of the key areas also has to be considered to be exceptional. The “best-fit” model is still applied for judgements of “Good.”

As we are sure you will understand, the bar for attaining a judgement of “Outstanding” has clearly been raised to a much higher level and it is now much more difficult for Schools to achieve. Amanda Spielman, Ofsted’s Chief Inspector has also spoken publicly about this issue, confirming that she expects the number of Outstanding Schools in the country to be reduced significantly under this new Inspection Framework.

We have all continued to strive to improve our Schools since our last Inspections, despite all of the difficulties that we have had to overcome in the last two years, and we feel that our Schools are better now than they were before.

We would like to reassure parents that we will continue to strive to make further improvements, in partnership with yourselves, to give ourselves the best possible chances to achieve another “Outstanding” judgement when we are next visited by Ofsted. However, we wanted you to be fully aware of how difficult this will be to achieve.

We trust that you will appreciate our current, collective position and will support us as we continue to strive to do our very best for your children.

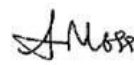
Yours sincerely,



Mr S Evans  
Head Teacher  
Finstall First School



Mr C Smith  
Head Teacher  
South Bromsgrove High



Mrs A Moss  
Head Teacher  
Blackwell First School



Mr M Evans  
Chair of Governors  
Finstall First School



Mrs A Jewson  
Chair of Governors  
South Bromsgrove High



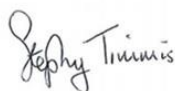
Dr H Evans  
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Mrs F Barnes  
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