



The Deanery Church of England Academy
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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

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Dear parents, guardians and carers

Ofsted inspection - feedback

You will be aware that The Deanery had an Ofsted inspection in September this year. This is the first inspection that the school has had since it opened.

We have just received the final report and want to share it with you quickly so that we can communicate its findings, and our plans for the future. The school has been graded as inadequate. This outcome is obviously very disappointing for all members of staff and will undoubtedly be very disappointing for you as parents also. However, it must be said that all staff in school are committed to providing the best education for the children at The Deanery.

You can access the report [here](#), before it goes live on the OFSTED portal next week.

It is difficult to express the results of a comprehensive OFSTED inspection in a single word judgement. You'll be aware of the media coverage of this issue over recent months, and the devastating impact a finding can, potentially, have on people. We are acutely aware of this and would ask for your constructive support in the weeks and months ahead.

Inspections occur over a two-day period, and the report reflects what was seen at that point in time. We know that The Deanery is changing, and improving. Many of these changes that have been implemented have not yet had the chance to yield significant results. Whilst there have been many new initiatives at the start of this academic year which are exactly the right things for the school to do, we do not yet have the data to support their impact.

We are very aware of the numerous changes there have been in the leadership of the school since it was opened. Despite best intentions this has slowed down the progress of development across the school.

There are some positive aspects drawn out in the report, with the inspectors noting that **safeguarding is effective....attendance is improving...classrooms are calm places to learn...pupils are keen to do well....they value the extra-curricular opportunities.** These

characteristics provide the bedrock for us to build on and reflect the progress that has been made over recent months.

Key improvements and actions taken

Ambitious Curriculum. The inspection report notes that the new Values in Practice curriculum will support pupils' personal development. The new school leadership is working hard to ensure that curriculum content across the year is appropriately sequenced and builds upon the previously learned skills and knowledge. This includes reviewing the content and scope to ensure that personal development is supported.

SEND. The trust is working intensively with the school to ensure that all young people with identified additional needs have appropriate support in place. The Special Educational Needs provision, and the way in which our team work has recently been reviewed.

Attendance. We recognise that attendance levels at the school are lower than expected, and it is pleasing to note that inspectors were able to determine that attendance is improving, but there is still more to be done. Please work with us on this issue - we know that every lesson matters and that school is the best place for young people and their life chances.

Careers guidance. The new school leadership is actively reviewing our provision for careers support, and we are looking forward to sharing more news with you about developments in this area in the weeks and months ahead. We recognise the importance of preparing young people for the world of work and want to ensure that we expose them to meaningful experiences through their time with us.

Trust support. The trust leadership has moved quickly to place support in and around, the school to ensure that rapid improvements are made. We are engaging in meaningful conversations with all stakeholders to ensure positive outcomes for the school.

Next Steps

We believe it is important to ensure that you can ask questions to raise any concerns you may have. We are confident in the steps we've already taken to ensure issues are addressed but if you need further reassurance then we're offering the opportunity to ask questions below:

Send questions via email

If you have any questions about the Ofsted report or the improvements that we are implementing, please send these in an email and we will respond accordingly. Please can we ask that these are brief and specific as we will be managing an increased volume of queries. Please email these questions directly to feedback@dcea.org.uk. These will be monitored and managed by Vickey Evans who will be supporting Mrs Osborne-James during this period.

We sincerely appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding as we make rapid improvements to the school and navigate through this period of change together. We are dedicated to the education of your child and building a school environment where all young people flourish.

Best wishes

Stephen Mitchell
Chief Executive
Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

Andy Smith
Chair of Academy Council

Nigel Daniel
Chair of Board

Kelly Osborne-James
Headteacher