



Southrop School PTA
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Registered Charity Number: 1049425

Dear Parent, Carers, Prospective Parents and School Staff,

Following the spontaneous Ofsted inspection our school received in October 2023 we would like to extend our thoughts and feelings as parents and carers of the children at Southrop Church of England Primary School.

We were thrilled to see how our school came to life to show our true and honest self through the teachers and support staff. We believe the staff at the school are the keystone to the success of our small, village school and their tailored and custom-made approach to teaching our children is second to none. Although the outcome was not as we, or the staff, thought it should be, we are so proud of all the staff who showed passion, enthusiasm, honesty and integrity, not only throughout the inspection, but every day in their teaching to our children. For this we are grateful and appreciate the staff for all they do.

We believe the school is a fantastic learning environment for our children which is due to the positive, extremely hard working and can-do attitude all the staff show to our children every day. As a small village school community, it is very difficult for Ofsted to understand the way our school operates, but as parents, we see our children learning and progressing, retaining information and building on their knowledge. We believe the inspection did not take into account the school as a whole and only acknowledged a snapshot. They focused on specific areas and targets, rather than the bigger picture and how the children grow within the school.

We feel that our children develop a love of learning and an attitude of tolerance and understanding that leads to them being incredibly open and confident, academically and socially. We were all pleased to see the self-assurance and growing personalities our children showed during the inspection, recognised and documented. We were also pleased to see how our children reacted throughout the inspection, with pride and clear articulation. These are key values taught not only from us as parents but also impressed, supported, and nurtured from all school staff.

With regard to the teaching methods used in our school, as parents, we understand and agree with the idea that one model will not fit all. Therefore, taking the best parts of certain models that will help and enrich the teaching for our children, we support, understand and encourage. Unfortunately, the Ofsted inspection has a blanket approach to the curriculum and how they assess the quality of the education. As the parents of the children being taught, we do not agree that this blanket approach can be made to a small school such as ours. The teaching methods used within our school benefits all children and takes into account the range of pupils, which ultimately produces high achieving students with a great all-round education, with a thorough understanding of topic areas.

As parents we were upset and disappointed with the outcome of the Ofsted report and are truly very happy with the education our children receive at Southrop Primary School. We believe our children receive a good education and would like to remind any new parents that the methods used for Ofsted inspections cannot be used for all educational providers, which in turn does not provide a true reflection of the teachings of schools such as ours.

Southrop School PTA Committee.

If you would like to contact the PTA for any further comments or questions, please do so by emailing PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk