

Please see below our press statement following our inspection report and Ofsted's letter to the DfE

## **Begin**

We were inspected between 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 by Ofsted inspectors

Further to receiving our report we issue the following statement

We welcome the comments made in the report and some of the recommendations made by inspectors. The progress and development of our pupils has always been at the heart of our school and we will work with Ofsted to take all the necessary steps to ensure that our children receive a well-rounded education.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, the school's contract with the Bridge Schools Inspectorate ended. This meant that the school would now be inspected under the framework provided by Ofsted from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015. Whilst we appreciate Ofsted's endeavour to work with schools to improve standards, we have a number of questions that need addressing.

Our school was not under the remit of Ofsted during the time of its inspection. The transition training offered by Ofsted took place after our inspection was over. This means that the school was not given any time to adapt its practices to the framework used by Ofsted to inspect schools.

Reports have suggested that pupils were exposed to "inappropriate literature about extremist, sexist or partisan views". Firstly, the material was not "extremist", unless traditional Islamic values fitting in within the Islamic ethos are now being regarded as "extremist". Secondly, the school library has been closed to pupils from the beginning of this academic year following book donations received during the summer holidays. Therefore, the allegation that contentious books were freely accessible to children is false.

The school has always promoted integration into modern Britain and developed within children those values which teach us to respect one another. These are taught during lessons and throughout the school as part of its informal curriculum.

The school has had visits from local MPs and the Mayor to give pupils an understanding of British institutions. The school council invites members from Key Stage 1 all the way through to Key Stage 2 to develop the children's understanding of the democratic system. Children are aware of their rights and know how to voice their opinions and views. It seems that inspectors have made a judgement here based on a question directed at a six-year-old child who was asked if they knew who David Cameron was to which the child replied that he was the president of the country. It would be unfair to make such a drastic judgement on the school based on this line of questioning directed at a 6-year-old.

The inspection report also refers to a child 'including France as part of Britain'. That particular class had been studying the War Horse and a 10 year old child became confused with the alliance of Britain and France during the war. This is an example of what was a trend throughout the inspection where children were put under pressure to respond to haphazard questioning. This also is a clear indication that children are being taught about Britain, it's traditions and it's history.

Ofsted and press reports have suggested pupils are not aware of differing faiths and cultures. Currently the school is linked with a school from another faith and children have gathered together from both schools to learn about each other. Children from the school have visited a local church, synagogue and Gurdwara. These visits were last made in late 2014 which demonstrates the schools proactive approach in instilling within children the skills and learning required as growing citizens in Britain.

We have challenged many aspects of the report published by Ofsted as we feel that there are a number of inaccuracies in the report coupled with procedural unfairness during and after the inspection. To date, we have not received a response from Ofsted answering these concerns despite forwarding our concerns to them on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.

**End**