



12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Our Ofsted Inspection – April 2026**

We are delighted to share the findings of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 21 April 2026. We are proud of what inspectors found and excited to share the report with you.

### **A New Way of Reporting: Ofsted Report Cards**

You may notice that this inspection report looks different from previous ones. Ofsted has introduced a new report card system, replacing the single overall grade (such as 'Good' or 'Outstanding') with separate grades across different areas of school life.

Schools are now graded on a five-point scale across each area:

- **Exceptional** – among the very best nationally
- **Strong standard** – excellent, consistent work making a real difference
- **Expected standard** – doing everything that a school should be doing (a high bar)
- **Needs attention** – work to be done before problems grow
- **Urgent improvement** – significant issues requiring immediate action

Importantly, Ofsted is clear that 'Expected standard' is a high standard – it means a school is providing everything children need and deserve. It is not a middling result; it is a mark of quality.

### **Our Grades at a Glance**

We are pleased to report that Whaddon CofE School received the following grades:

**Attendance and Behaviour: Strong standard**

**Achievement: Expected standard**

**Curriculum and Teaching: Expected standard**

**Inclusion: Expected standard**

**Leadership and Governance: Expected standard**

**Personal Development and Wellbeing: Expected standard**

**Safeguarding: Standards Met**

Whaddon C of E School  
Stock Lane, Whaddon  
MK170LS  
01908 501719  
Web: [www.whaddon.eschools.co.uk](http://www.whaddon.eschools.co.uk)

We are especially proud to have achieved Strong standard for Attendance and Behaviour – a recognition of the exceptional community spirit and high expectations that define daily life at Whaddon.

### **What Inspectors Said About Our School**

The inspection report paints a picture of a school we are deeply proud of. Here are some of the highlights:

#### **A Happy, Safe and Caring Community**

Inspectors noted that pupils “arrive each morning full of enthusiasm for the day ahead” and that “warm and caring relationships between staff and pupils are seen in abundance across the school.” Our school vision – ‘Challenging each other, to be our best, through words, actions and choices; so we may all shine’ – is described as truly lived by both pupils and staff.

#### **Outstanding Behaviour and Attendance**

Whaddon’s Strong standard in Attendance and Behaviour reflects what you see every day. Inspectors observed that classrooms are calm and focused, that lunchtimes are “particularly happy occasions” with pupils socialising warmly in mixed year groups, and that bullying is simply not a concern here. The report also recognises the careful, personalised way we support attendance – working closely with families when concerns emerge, welcoming pupils who have struggled to attend elsewhere, and making thoughtful adaptations to the school day where needed. Inspectors noted that this support has a tangible effect on pupils’ success and happiness.

#### **Excellent Inclusion and Support for All Pupils**

Inspectors praised our work to identify and meet pupils’ needs quickly and ambitiously. They highlighted that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are very well supported through carefully considered resources and adaptations, and that disadvantaged pupils are equally well supported in all areas of school life.

#### **A Broad and Ambitious Curriculum**

The report confirms that our curriculum maps out clearly the important knowledge, vocabulary and skills pupils need across every year group, building logically from the early years to Year 6. Staff teach the reading programme well and develop pupils’ deep love of reading. Our phonics programme is delivered with accuracy, and the multiplication check was specifically highlighted as a strength.

#### **Personal Development and Values**

Inspectors found that pupils understand the meaning of respect and live it through their interactions. They described Whaddon as “a happy school built on mutual respect and tolerance,” where pupils confidently discuss British values, link them to other subjects, and say that “everyone is welcome here no matter their individual differences.” Pupils also benefit from a wide range of clubs – from sewing and gardening to singing – which leaders work hard to make accessible to all.

#### **Strong Leadership**

The report recognises that leaders make decisions in the best interests of pupils and have “a precise understanding of the school’s strengths and what needs to improve further.” Staff feel well supported, speak positively about being part of the school community, and value leaders’ efforts to

reduce workload and prioritise wellbeing. Governors are described as meeting their statutory duties effectively and knowing the school well.

### **Our Next Steps**

We are, however, committed to continuous improvement and our leadership team is already working on the constructive feedback from inspectors. Specifically, we will focus on ensuring that teachers consistently adapt learning tasks in response to pupils' needs, and that we maximise every opportunity to identify and close any gaps in understanding – but it is only right that we take a moment to celebrate and say thank you for everyone's hard work in getting us to where we are today.

### **Thank You**

This result reflects the dedication of every member of our school community – our wonderful pupils, our talented and committed staff, our supportive governors, and, of course, you as parents and carers. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership.

We would like to invite you to join us in the playground at pick-up on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, for a small celebration. We hope to see you there!

We would also love for you to share this wonderful news as widely as possible. If you know any parents who are looking for a school for their child – whether joining Reception in September or mid-way through their primary years – please do encourage them to consider Whaddon. We would be delighted to welcome new families into our community.

We have attached the full report to this letter. It will also be available to read on the Ofsted website at [reports.ofsted.gov.uk](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk) within the next few days. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Prior**

Headteacher, Whaddon CofE School

**Verity Threlfell**

Chair of Governors, Whaddon CofE School