

Monday 19th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about recent changes to the Ofsted inspection framework, introduced nationally in 2025, and to explain what this means for schools and for inspection reports going forward.

What has changed?

Ofsted has moved away from the single overall judgement that schools were previously given (such as “Good” or “Outstanding”). Instead, inspections now provide a more detailed, balanced picture of how a school is performing across a range of areas.

You may notice that inspection outcomes now look more like an “MOT-style” report, highlighting:

- Areas that are working well and meeting expectations
- Areas that may require further attention or improvement
- Clear advisory comments to help schools continue to improve

This approach is designed to be more transparent, more constructive, and more helpful for parents and schools alike.

What does “Expected Standard” mean?

In the new framework, an “Expected Standard” judgement is a positive outcome. It confirms that the school is meeting national expectations and providing an appropriate, safe and effective education for its pupils; It recognises secure practice while identifying where schools can continue to strengthen their work

Our improvement journey

As many of you will know, our school has been on a significant and sustained improvement journey over the past two years, following a challenging period of time and an Inadequate evaluation under the previous inspection framework, and previous leadership. The new trust, Special Partnership Trust, and school leaders have led and supported this change management.

We are extremely proud of the progress that has been made since then. The new Ofsted framework allows inspectors to recognise improvement more clearly, while also identifying next steps — something we welcome as part of our commitment to continuous development.

What this means for parents

You may see:

- A wider range of judgements across different areas
- Advisory comments rather than definitive labels
- A focus on progress, improvement, and capacity to sustain change



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This is entirely normal under the new framework and should be viewed as a fair and accurate reflection of a school that is improving and moving forward.

To support your understanding, we have also shared an explanatory video [New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#) alongside this letter, which outlines the new framework in more detail and explains how inspection outcomes should be interpreted.

As always, thank you for your continued support and trust. If you have any questions after reading this letter or watching the video, please do not hesitate to contact the school.
Best regards

Vikki Alden
Headteacher
Brunel School