



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share the outcome of our Ofsted inspection, which took place in January 2026, and to celebrate what the report says about St. Edmund's CofE Primary and Nursery School, while also being clear about the next steps on our continuing journey.

First and foremost, safeguarding was judged to be effective. Inspectors confirmed that *"every pupil feels welcomed, cared for, safe and that they belong"* and that this is *"largely due to the warm, compassionate relationships that staff develop with pupils as a priority"*. This is the most important responsibility of any school, and we are incredibly proud that this remains a clear strength.

What inspectors recognised and celebrated

The report paints a very positive picture of daily life at St. Edmund's. Inspectors noted that pupils are *"eager to arrive each morning"*, enjoy the welcoming start to the day, and benefit from *"clear expectations and well-organised routines"* that help create a calm and focused learning environment

Pupils were described as *"very polite and friendly"*, treating staff, visitors and each other with respect, and living out the school's Sixcess values, which they *"know by heart"*. Inspectors also confirmed that bullying and unkind behaviour are *"rare"* and that staff deal with any concerns *"quickly and effectively"*.

In terms of learning, inspectors recognised that pupils *"talk enthusiastically about their learning"* and are *"developing appropriate knowledge and can make sound connections between current and earlier learning"*. Outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics were judged to be close to national averages, with *"more pupils starting to achieve higher standards"*. The report also highlights that the school's new approach to phonics *"has had a positive impact"*, helping pupils develop *"firm foundations in reading"* and *"a real passion for reading"*.

Leadership and staff commitment were also recognised. Inspectors noted that leaders *"are passionate and have an ambitious vision for the school"* and that they *"have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and what needs to develop"*. Staff were described as *"highly positive"*, feeling that leaders are *"approachable and caring"* and that their contributions to shaping the school's vision are genuinely valued.

A school on a journey

As a school, we have experienced significant change over the past year. New leadership has been in place just over twelve months, and our Deputy Headteacher joined us in September 2025. Inspectors recognised that this has led to *"a considerable amount of change recently"*, with leaders *"prioritising the right actions, in the best interests of pupils"*.



The report is clear that some of these improvements are still being embedded. In Early Years, inspectors acknowledged that *"the significant changes... are having a positive impact"* and that *"there are early signs that children's achievement and their readiness for the next stage of their learning is improving"*. Similarly, in inclusion, inspectors noted that leaders *"recognise"* where systems need strengthening and that *"appropriate improvements"* are already being made, even though these are still in their early stages.

This aligns closely with our own self-evaluation. Time was not on our side during the inspection, but the direction of travel was clear to inspectors: the changes are the right ones, and the impact is beginning to be seen.

Looking ahead with confidence

We are already acting on the next steps identified in the report, building on the strong foundations that are firmly in place. Our focus is on embedding improvements in Early Years, strengthening inclusion and assessment systems, and continuing to refine teaching so that every child thrives.

We are proud of what the inspection recognised: a caring, welcoming school, happy and respectful pupils, strong relationships, improving outcomes, and a committed staff team working with ambition and integrity. Most importantly, inspectors saw a school that knows itself well and is moving forward with clarity and purpose.

Thank you, as always, for your trust, encouragement and partnership. Together, we will continue our journey to ensure that every child at St. Edmund's experiences *life in all its fullness*.

The full ofsted report can be viewed here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/122741>

For more information regarding the new ofsted framework and understanding around the analogy of 'Needs Attention' as an advisory, please check out this video: <https://youtu.be/kbl0FvY976g>

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Bandy-Webb
Headteacher
St. Edmund's CofE Primary and Nursery School