

# Date Valley School Trust

Company number: 06845508 Registered Charity number: 1136298  
Mitcham Court, Cricket Green, Mitcham CR4 4LB  
Telephone: 0208 648 4647 · Tel: 07980299717 Email: [managingdirector@dvst.org.uk](mailto:managingdirector@dvst.org.uk)



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Dear Parents

As salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

As most of you will be aware, the Ofsted monitoring report, from their visit in July, was publicly released on Friday. Alhamdulillah the report highlighted many positives but also informed us of continuing areas for improvement.

A monitoring visit and subsequent interim report takes place when a school has been highlighted as one that has areas of concern to address. A full Ofsted inspection for these schools will usually take place after two academic years of the initial inspection. However, in the interim period, one or two monitoring visits usually take place, so that Ofsted can track the progress of the school.

Alhamdulillah when they visited us, they saw some of the required changes. Subsequently a number of the standards which were previously unmet are now met. Those that were not met still need more time. We need to focus on the relevant areas and work this academic year to make sure that our objective of being a good school is a reality.

It is not expected by Ofsted that all the standards will be met within the first year. It takes time to meet the requirements of all the areas highlighted. However we were pleased by some of the positive comments in both the feedback meeting with senior leaders and in the report. For example:

- Leaders have taken effective action to produce plans and schemes of work to address these weaknesses. The curriculum plans and schemes of work are effectively implemented.
- Teachers have received appropriate training and support to ensure that planning takes into consideration the needs and abilities of pupils, including the most able pupils.
- Leaders have ensured that there is sufficient coverage of subjects beyond English and Mathematics. For example, there are regular lessons on Science, Geography, History, Design and Technology and Computing. Leaders have also introduced a Mathematics Mastery scheme, particularly to challenge the most able pupils.
- Teachers know their pupils well. They use assessment well to plan for the needs of pupils, including for the most able pupils.
- Pupils' writing is improving. Since the previous inspection, leaders have implemented a system for tracking pupils' progress in writing. Teachers have attended external writing moderation training to help them improve their assessment of pupils' writing. Teachers set writing targets for pupils and provide feedback on how to improve.
- They have been successful in implementing the action plan to address many of the weaknesses identified in the previous inspection. Consequently, most of the paragraphs of the independent school standards are met.

I believe there is some concern that the school will be shut down because all the standards have not been met. I would like to reassure all of you that this is not the case. A positive impact from changes introduced has been made and as you can see above 'most of the paragraphs of the independent school standards are met.' (See below)

2017 – Standards not met	2018
The proprietor must ensure that there is a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work that take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an education, health and care plan.	MET

(2(1), 2(1)(b) and 2(1)(b)(i))	
The proprietor must ensure that the teaching at the school enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught. 3 and 3(a)	NOT MET
The proprietor must ensure that the teaching at the school involves well-planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time. 3 and 3(c)	NOT MET
The proprietor must ensure that the teaching at the school shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons. 3 and 3(d)	MET
The proprietor must ensure that the teaching at the school utilises effectively classroom resources of a good quality, quantity and range. 3 and 3(f)	MET
The proprietor must ensure that the teaching at the school demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils work regularly and thoroughly and teachers use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress. 3 and 3(g)	MET
The proprietor must ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfill the responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. 34(1), 34(1)(a) and 34(1)(b)	NOT MET

With most of the standards met at the end of the last academic year, I feel confident that we will not only meet the rest of the standards at our next inspection but will exceed them. The beginning of the year has been exceptionally smooth and we look forward to this continuing, leading to an extremely productive year.

I would ask you all for your continuing support and to join us in our journey towards excellence. If you have any queries, please feel free to email [chairperson@dvst.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@dvst.org.uk) or [headteacher@dvst.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@dvst.org.uk)

Jazakumullah khair

Sister Razina Karim

Chairperson

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