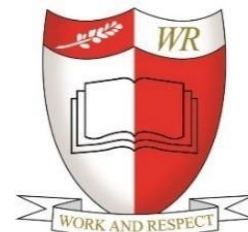


William Ransom Primary School

Effort Respect Kindness

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9th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will all know, we had our Ofsted Inspection on 18th and 19th March. Unfortunately, the outcome was not what we were hoping for, or expecting, and included three 'Good' areas and two areas that 'Require Improvement'. As of this year, Ofsted do not give overall judgements.

During our OFSTED inspection we had **serious concerns regarding inspector conduct, procedural failures, and the use of insufficient and inaccurate evidence**. We notified our intentions to submit a complaint the day after the inspection before receiving the draft report. As per the complaints process, we submitted our formal complaint (7 separate breaches of the handbook, detailed in seven separate complaints, a total of 4019 words over 8 pages) on 25th April. In the complaint, we specifically referred to where we believed and could evidence that inspectors did not follow their own inspection handbook. Although Ofsted admitted that there had been a breach of their own handbook during the inspection, our complaint was not upheld. The process had a significant, and unnecessary, impact on the mental health of our SEND team.

It should also be noted that the inspection cycle that we have just endured is permanently ending in July of this year. Following a consultation process, Ofsted have now recognised the need for inspections to provide a more nuanced view of a school's strengths and areas for improvement, and so changes are rightly being made. Sir Martyn Oliver, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, has said that the hope is that the new inspection process will be a 'more balanced, fairer approach' and that it will 'reduce the pressure on professionals working in education.'

We are not alone in making a complaint to Ofsted about their conduct, you will have seen in the news:

- There has been a 65% rise in complaints from schools about inspections which meant Ofsted had to devise a new, external complaints-panel process in 2024 [source](#)
- In 2021 – 2024, there were 1018 cases of conduct-related complaints about inspectors with only 17 fully upheld. These complaints are investigated by OFSTED and therefore they are "marking their own homework" [source](#)
- There was 1 coroner-confirmed suicide (headteacher Ruth Perry, 2023) where the coroner called inspectors "rude and intimidating" [source](#)

The report clearly identifies many strengths in the Quality of Education for the majority of children in our school, however, it states that the Quality of Education for children with SEND (children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities) 'Requires Improvement', as well as the 'Leadership and Management' grading. We were informed by the inspection team that when Quality of Education is graded as 'Requires Improvement' in reference to SEND, it automatically places 'Leadership and Management' into 'Requires Improvement', regardless of any other areas of strength.

Since the school was last inspected in 2014, our school has increased from a capacity of 275 children to 422 children, our number of SEND children has increased from 16 to 49 children and we now cater for a far wider demographic of society. William Ransom continues to deliver exceptional outcomes. However, over the past 15 years, the Ofsted inspection framework has undergone significant changes, reflecting a fundamental shift in educational priorities. These changes represent a move away from data-driven

judgements towards a more holistic evaluation of a school's capacity to deliver a high-quality education for all learners.

The school recognises the need to strengthen its SEND provision to meet the expectations set out in the current Ofsted framework. While efforts have been made to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, there is a need to ensure greater consistency in delivering high-quality, tailored support, and evaluating the impact of interventions. Enhancing inclusive practice and ensuring all staff are confident in adapting teaching will be critical to securing best possible outcomes for SEND pupils and allow us to more clearly and obviously demonstrate our effective provision to Ofsted.

We would like to thank our parents for their support throughout this process, and the feedback provided through the OFSTED 'parent view' survey. The results from this were extremely positive, with all results above the national average. You can see the results for yourself [by clicking here](#). We feel it is a shame that these very positive outcomes were not explicitly mentioned in the report.

As a result of this inspection, our concerns (as listed above) and the subsequent judgements made, we are considering requesting an Ofsted reinspection in the hope that our school is judged as part of a fair process.

Moving forward, we understand that parents and carers may have questions following the Ofsted report. We are committed to maintaining open communication and transparency with our school community. Members of the leadership team will be available on Gate 6 to talk to in person every morning this week and beyond. We also have a Google Form that can be accessed [by clicking here](#). This provides an opportunity for you to share any questions you may have and will close at 5pm on Friday, when questions will be gathered and responded to in due course.

The outcome of our recent inspection does not change the journey that William Ransom continues upon, to become outstanding (or exemplary as it will shortly be known); not for Ofsted, but for every child who currently attends our school and those who will in the future. William Ransom is still the same school that your child happily walked or skipped into the week before Ofsted, and since, and our school team continues to strive to move the school forward on its journey and provide every child with the best possible school experience during their time here.

The full report will be sent to all families at 7am tomorrow morning alongside a letter from the Governing Body. Thank you for your engagement and ongoing support.

Kindest regards

Tony Plunkett
Headteacher

Julie Hall
Deputy Headteacher

Victoria Wheat
Deputy Headteacher

Andrew Fennemore
Chair of Governors

Sam Hankin
Vice Chair of Governors

Matt Abbott
Governor

Cllr Ian Albert
Governor

Kevin Briggs
Governor

Jane Buchanan
Governor

Muhammad Farooq
Governor

Anna Jackson
Governor

Susie Kholodenko
Governor

Dave Massey
Governor

Chris Niewdach
Governor

Victoria Proddow
Governor

Jack Wells
Governor