



SOLIHULL

**ISI INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE
SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORT**

Highlights and key findings

January 2024



AMBITION - OPPORTUNITY - COMMUNITY

Executive Headmaster's response

By reading the inspection report you are in for an uplifting treat. It paints a beautiful and accurate picture of this wonderful school.

There are two elements which pleased me the most. I like to describe Solihull School as academic and ambitious and the first highlight for me is that the inspection team picked up on this too. The following quotation from their report really chimes with our approach to school life:

“Pupils have consistently positive attitudes to their learning and are motivated to succeed.”

Secondly, I was delighted that the inspectors picked up on the good relationships between pupils and teachers – more impressive than they usually see elsewhere. They write about “a community characterised by mutual respect and inclusivity” and I recognise this description of Solihull School. There is a warmth to this school which flies high above national norms.

When the inspection team first arrived, I said to them that Solihull is one of the great schools of England. They have found nothing to dissuade me from this opinion, of course they haven't. We have a powerful community here. It extends beyond the school day and beyond the school gates. This is not a perfect school – I don't know of one that is. We must not be complacent, but we can allow ourselves a moment's enjoyment that a team of educational experts recognise how very special is Solihull School.

My thanks to staff, parents, governors and friends. Well done to the pupils – this is a most impressive report.




Mr Charles Fillingham

Summary of Inspection Findings



Leaders have a deep understanding of the needs of the pupils

Leaders continually seek the means to promote and fulfil the school aims of fostering ambition, providing opportunities and creating a supportive community

Pupils make significant progress from their starting points

Pupils grow in self-confidence and self-esteem in an environment characterised by mutual respect and inclusivity

Pupils have a positive attitude to all aspects of their learning and thrive on being challenged by their knowledgeable teachers

Pupils are ambitious for themselves and others

Leaders provide an extensive co-curricular programme which enables pupils to take part in a range of cultural, creative, academic, outdoor and community-based activities





Leaders have a detailed understanding of the needs of pupils



Pupils achieve ambitious goals and are well prepared for adult life



Leaders maintain close oversight of teaching



Leaders monitor pupil progress thoroughly



The governing body provides challenge to the school leaders and scrutinises all areas of the school's operation



Leaders in the early years have high levels of skill and knowledge

Safeguarding

Pupils feel safe in school, reassured by the many points of contact with trusted adults to whom they can turn if they have concerns



Quality of education, training and recreation



Leaders' in-depth understanding of the needs of the pupils means that the curriculum is well planned

Pupils thrive on being challenged

Children are encouraged to be independent learners and express themselves confidently

Pupils have consistently positive attitudes to their learning and are motivated to succeed

A wide ranging co-curricular programme provides considerable challenge and motivation for pupils, so that they extend their skills and achievements

Teachers demonstrate a high level of subject knowledge and sessions are often fast paced to challenge pupils

The curriculum provides considerable opportunities for pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding and to enhance their scientific, creative and technological skills





Pupils value wellbeing lessons which enable them to develop their understanding of the needs of everyone in their community

Mutual respect between teachers and pupils results in high standards of behaviour in lessons and around the school

Pupils value the opportunities for reflection and consideration of their own place in the world

Pupils' social and economic education and contribution to society

Pupils have a high regard for the rule of the law and a well-developed sense of fairness

Pupils have a clear sense of right and wrong and they develop an increasingly mature moral compass as they move through the school

Pupils respect the integrity of teachers and appreciate the willingness of staff to consider pupils' views

Leaders ensure that the school's co-curricular programme provides opportunities for pupils to make a positive contribution to the local community

Fundamental British values are embedded in the school culture and pupils are consequently well prepared for life in wider society



Mr Sean Morgan, Head of the Senior School

They came, they saw, we conquered!

Whilst we believe ourselves to be in excellent shape, it was both a huge relief and a very special moment when the Lead Inspector declared his hand in feeling that way too. The fact that the Inspector then went on to describe a school that I fully recognised, was a truly amazing feeling.

Our challenge now, of course, is to work tirelessly to move us even further forward both inside and outside the classroom and we will continue to do all we reasonably can to do exactly that. Our community is a truly special one; something very much noticed and noted by the inspectors, and it is right and proper that this featured in the report. They say, 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we certainly don't underestimate the vital contribution that our staff, parents, governors, former pupils and friends make to ensuring that our pupils have everything at their disposal to be the very best that they can be and I am extremely grateful to all parties for their ongoing support; we certainly do not take it for granted and as such, we celebrate this inspection success together. Thank you.



Mr Mark Penney, Head of the Prep School



In reading this report, we will all do so through the prism of what is most dear to us. Those things which resonate most with us, are those things that will lift most easily off the pages when our perceptions are affirmed. What a joy it is when the ultimate arbiters of our sector, not only independently validate but also value the same things we do.

For some, our academic credentials are prized above other defining characteristics, for others it's our long-term commitment to our pupils' wellbeing or the vast range of opportunities on offer to them. And for some, it's the amalgam of those all those things that 'enable every student to aspire to the highest levels of progress and attainment' whilst at Solihull School. In the process of doing their jobs well, a very experienced inspection team left no stone unturned in establishing the facts, but they also left with a very keen sense of what it feels like to be a stakeholder in our diverse and inclusive community.

Solihull School is a happy place where great things happen. We all, I believe, are fortunate to be part of it and we all play a strong hand in making it what it is. Long may that continue as we commit to doing all we can to give our wonderful pupils the best possible start in life, from which they can go on to leave a very positive Solihull stamp on the world. Thank you for all you do and for now, let's celebrate together – without an ounce of complacency – this super report.

One of the great schools of England



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