

CHILTHORNE DOMER CHURCH SCHOOL

Main Street

Chilthorne Domer

Yeovil

Somerset BA22 8RD

Headteacher: Mrs N Chesterton

TEL & FAX.: 01935 840407

E-MAIL: office@cdcs.uk

WEBSITE: www.chilthornedomerchurchschool.co.uk



Together we Love, we Aim High and we Celebrate!

6 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. While the report identifies some areas where we will continue our work to raise achievement outcomes, it also recognises the many strengths that make Chilthorne Domer Church School such a special place for our children.

The report highlights that our school is a warm, welcoming and highly inclusive community where every child is known, valued and supported to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background or individual needs. Inspectors recognised the strong relationships between staff, pupils and families, noting that these positive partnerships help remove barriers to learning and attendance and ensure that pupils feel safe and happy in school.

One of the strongest messages throughout the report is the praise for our commitment to inclusion and pupil wellbeing. Ofsted described Chilthorne Domer Church School as a "highly inclusive school", recognising the determination of leaders and staff to ensure every child succeeds. Inspectors found that pupils with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and those facing additional challenges are identified early, receive appropriate support and are enabled to engage successfully in learning. They noted that pupils understand the importance of kindness, inclusion and respect, commenting that: "They know that discrimination exists in the outside world, but are adamant that it does not happen in school."

We are particularly proud that inspectors highlighted our personal development programme as a strength of the school. They recognised the broad range of opportunities available to children through clubs, leadership roles, educational visits and community projects. Pupils were praised for their understanding of respect, tolerance, inclusion and British values, and for the maturity with which they discuss relationships, diversity and citizenship.

The report also celebrates the excellent start children receive in our Early Years provision. Inspectors noted that children "get off to a great start in Reception Year" and praised our ambitious curriculum, strong support for children's emotional development and the exciting learning environment that creates a "buzz of excitement and curiosity". The school's work in developing early reading, writing and foundational skills received particularly positive recognition.

Reading was identified as a priority and a strength within the school. Inspectors highlighted that children begin learning letters and sounds from the moment they join us, and they described our focus on pencil grip, letter formation and early writing development as "impressive". They also noted that our Year 1 phonics outcomes are consistently above national averages.

Pupils themselves received significant praise. Ofsted found that children are polite, kind and respectful, behave well and understand the importance of inclusion. Pupils reported feeling safe in school and were confident that adults would support them if they had any worries. Inspectors also noted the positive contribution older pupils make through leadership opportunities, supporting younger children and helping shape school life.

We are committed to policies which promote the safeguarding of all children

Safeguarding
Lead

Mrs N Chesterton



Deputy Safeguarding
Leads

Mrs R Denley

Mrs C Cahill

Mrs B Handyside

Safeguarding was found to be fully effective, with inspectors confirming that safeguarding standards are met and that the school has created an open culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. They recognised that pupils are made safer and feel safe as a result of this work.

The report also acknowledges the dedication and professionalism of our staff team. Inspectors found that staff are proud to be part of the school, value professional development opportunities and feel well supported by leaders. They recognised the positive culture created within the school and the strong support provided for staff wellbeing.

Perhaps most importantly, Ofsted noted that parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and its staff, valuing the inclusive nature of our small school where every child is welcomed and cared for. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support that families provide and for the trust you place in us every day.

As always, we remain ambitious for every child. We will continue to build upon the many strengths identified in the report while focusing on the areas highlighted for further development, particularly in securing the highest possible achievement outcomes for all pupils. We are pleased that inspectors recognised the positive impact of the actions already put in place and we are proud that our 2026 outcomes to date demonstrate this continued improvement, with 88% of children achieving a Good Level of Development, 85% passing the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, and 70% of Year 4 pupils achieving full marks in the Multiplication Tables Check — all above national averages with the MTC results being significantly above the 2025 average.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. We look forward to building on these many strengths as we continue striving for the very best outcomes for every child.

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Chesterton



Headteacher

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