



# King Edward VII School

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23 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## OFSTED Inspection – update and publication of the inspection report for King Edward VII School

Further to our letter to you, dated 4 January 2023, when we provided you with initial information about the inspection of the School in September 2022, we write to update you on the School's position.

### Action to contest a number of the OFSTED judgements

The School followed all the appropriate procedures to contest a number of the judgements because we were unclear about how OFSTED arrived at the judgements.

We are very disappointed with the outcome of this process because OFSTED have refused to reconsider the judgements or to re-inspect the School. School leaders and the Governing Board have done everything possible to address this.

### The inspection report

In what can only be described as an unusual and unexpected overall judgement for the School (see below), the inspection team found King Edward VII School to be Good in a majority of the areas they reviewed. **The following areas were judged to be Good:**

- **Behaviour and attitudes**
- **Personal development**
- **Sixth Form provision**

Taking into account the knowledge that we have about our School, with particular reference to student progress and achievement, the broad range of experiences that are available to them to prepare them for living in a diverse and global world and the fact that we remain a very popular and successful School in Sheffield, we are pleased that the inspection team praised many important aspects of King Edward VII School, including stating that:



- ‘In lessons, relationships between pupils and staff are positive. Pupils’ behaviour across both sites is a strength of the School.’
- ‘The sixth form is thriving and draws pupils from across Sheffield schools. Sixth form pupils told inspectors they like the academic approach to the curriculum.’
- ‘An ambitious curriculum is planned for all, including those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).’
- ‘Leaders ensure that all pupils follow a broad curriculum.’
- ‘Pupils enjoy their lessons because they are taught by passionate, engaging and expert teachers.’
- ‘Pupils’ behaviour around the School is respectful and calm.’
- ‘The personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum builds a sense of respect among pupils...’
- ‘...there is a strong sense of community among the diverse population of the school.’
- ‘Leaders ensure that pupils receive careers advice and information about their next steps.’

The inspection team raised concerns primarily around safeguarding, including students leaving the Upper School site at lunch time. There is no general position in law on whether students should or should not be granted permission to leave a school site at lunch time. This is a decision for individual schools. It is also well recognised that students should be enabled to take age-appropriate and reasonable risks as part of their growth and development. It is common practice in many secondary schools, including in Sheffield, for students to leave their respective school site to access local facilities at lunch times. The inspectors formed a view that the School needed to do more to address this. Under the current OFSTED framework, concerns relating to safeguarding mean that the leadership and management judgement are automatically rated as ‘inadequate.’ This is a ‘limiting judgement’ which means that King Edward VII School could not receive a judgement that is better than ‘inadequate’ overall. The remaining areas are as follows:

- **Overall effectiveness – Inadequate**
- **The quality of education – Requires improvement**
- **Leadership and management - Inadequate**

School leaders, the Governing Board and the staffing body are profoundly disappointed with this overall judgement and are determined to continue to keep our children and young people safe at School and to address the areas relating to this judgement. The School is determined to continue to provide our children and young people with the best quality of education that they deserve.

### **Action taken since the inspection**

King Edward VII School has never been complacent and continuous learning and improvement are at the heart of the School.

Immediately after the inspection in September 2022 the School acted upon the preliminary outcomes and areas for improvement by producing an action plan which included:

- Seeking informed consent from all the parents and carers of young people in Year 10 and Year 11 (Key Stage 4) for their child(ren) to leave the Upper School site at lunch time. A risk assessment was completed and extra staff were recruited to monitor students leaving and returning to the site during lunch time. All students have to scan their ID card as part of this process.

- Providing further safeguarding training that was organised by the School and delivered to all staff by Local Authority Safeguarding Advisors. This was in addition to the training that is delivered in house throughout the year.
- Further work on assessment systems across different subject areas. This was already in the School's Improvement Plans for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

### What do the judgements mean for the School?

The 'inadequate' judgements for overall effectiveness and leadership and management means that King Edward VII School will be forced to convert to an academy and join a multi academy trust (MAT) by the Department for Education (DfE).

The Interim Regional Director, on behalf of the DfE, will identify sponsors for the School and will work with the Local Authority on this. School leaders and the Governing Board will not be part of this decision making process. It is hoped that the DfE and Local Authority will work in partnership with School leaders and the Governing Board in the best interests of the School. This request has been made to the Local Authority.

We will send further information to you when it is available.

### Looking forward

King Edward VII School has always been very proud of its independent status. We are very proud to be the last remaining Local Authority secondary School in Sheffield and what this signifies to our students, parents, carers, staff, governors, friends and associates of the School, Old Edwardians and the wider community, particularly the education community.

We are on the cusp of a significant, defining moment in the School's history which dates back to 1604 and the Sheffield Royal Grammar School. In 1905 King Edward VII School was founded by Sheffield City Council because the councillors wanted to establish a high performing school that would give a very good education to all its pupils and also send many of them to Sheffield, Oxford and Cambridge Universities. We are proud that we have maintained this success and tradition.

In our next communication we will let you know how you, as parents and carers, can continue to support our School.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have already contacted the School to offer your support. This is greatly appreciated.

The OFSTED report is available by clicking on this link.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50205797>

Yours sincerely



**Ms Linda Gooden**  
Headteacher



**Dr Peter Dickson**  
Chair of the Governing Board