

THE ROCHE SCHOOL

Principals:

Carmen Roche, BA.

James Roche, BSc. PhD

Head Teacher:

Vania Adams, BA, MA, PGCE.

Head of Nursery Schools:

Gabriella Emery, BA. Mont. Dip

11 FROGMORE

WANDSWORTH

LONDON

SW18 1HW

Telephone: 020 8877 0823

E-mail: office@therocheschool.co.uk

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Dear Parents,

As a further response to the recent Ofsted report, I provide a summing up of particular areas of strength followed by the recommendations for development.

Strengths of the school.

- The Head and Deputy provide strong leadership and are well supported.
- Staff promote pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development extremely well.
- The teaching in KS1 and KS2 leads to strong pupil outcomes.
- Leaders ensure that school is warm, welcoming and inclusive.
- Art, Sport, Music and Technology are particular strengths within the broad curriculum on offer.
- Pupils are taught a range of subjects as part of an interesting and stimulating curriculum.
- Standards achieved by pupils are high.
- Upper Key Stage 2 pupils reach levels of sophistication in their thinking which were well above those seen typically in the primary phase.
- Teachers have high expectations of pupils who develop positive attitudes to learning.
- Outcomes for pupils in 2017 showed that Year 6 achieved standards that were well above the national average in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Many pupils across the school are working at standards exceeding those expected for their age group.
- Within the strong teaching in the Early Years practitioners skilfully move children forward in their learning. For example developing children's understanding of book conventions and stories through sharing high-quality children's books with them, guiding them with skilful questioning.
- In Early Years children benefit from a range of purposeful activities inside and outside the classroom. Activities draw children in because they are interesting, engaging and exciting. As a result children are enthusiastic and making good progress.

Areas for development.

RECOMMENDATION	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT WE ARE DOING
<p>Enhance the capacity of the Leadership Team by:</p> <p><i>Strengthening the role of the Advisory Board in supporting leaders and holding them to account for all aspects of the schools work.</i></p>	<p>The Advisory Board currently consists of proprietors James and Carmen Roche, (lawyer) Brian Stranders and Sophie Roche as Clerk. Meetings take place termly. The Head, Deputy Head, Head of Nurseries and Head of Admissions are all accountable to the Advisory Board.</p>	<p>We wish to extend membership of the Advisory Board and seek to recruit personnel with relevant skills who can provide expertise and support the school. Parents will receive further communications about this procedure particularly with regards to recruitment.</p>
<p><i>Further developing the role of the middle leaders in supporting teachers to provide effective guidance to improve the achievement of all pupils across all ages of the school</i></p>	<p>Middle leaders refer to teachers who are taking on additional responsibilities above and beyond the role of class teacher. This includes subject coordinators who check teaching and learning in specific subjects.</p>	<p>Across the curriculum, teaching was both “outstanding” and “good”. Good middle leadership encourages and ensures absolute <i>consistency</i> in planning, marking and differentiation. Further coaching of middle leaders will be undertaken by outstanding teachers within the school.</p>
<p><i>Ensure that the quality of the Early Years provision is consistently effective by sharing good practice across the nursery and reception classes.</i></p>	<p>This is a reference to a perceived lack of cohesion between the nursery and Reception classes. These facilities were inspected <i>separately</i> until spring 2016 and so the process of uniting them is still underway. .</p>	<p>In response to the report, an EYFS co-ordinator will be appointed before half term. He/She will work within the context of both nursery and Reception classes ensuring that good practice is shared and mirrored. Whilst some strong leadership was evident, further consistent qualities of leadership and teaching will be successfully embedded across the phase.</p>

Please be assured that we remain committed to monitoring and evaluating the experience of the children at our school and will keep you fully informed in terms of development.

We welcome parent feedback and are happy to discuss further.

Kind regards,



Vania Adams
Headmistress