



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

NURSERY
& PRE-PREP

"The high-quality experiences that children receive, provides them with a firm foundation for future learning."



Independent Schools Inspectorate Report February 2020



A forward thinking independent nursery and pre-preparatory school for day pupils aged between 0-7, set in 56 acres and surrounded by beautiful Somerset countryside. Pupils progress on to the prep and senior school on the same site.



Taunton School Nursery & Pre-Prep

Taunton School Nursery and Pre-Prep seeks to challenge, nurture and inspire little ones to provide them with an outstanding Early Years education. It endeavours to ensure that our children's wellbeing is at the heart of everything the school does.

The whole school (from Nursery to Sixth Form), which educates 1,000 pupils, underwent the rigorous three day ISI inspection in February 2020, by a team of inspectors. The Nursery and Pre-Prep has 230 pupils from Nursery (starting aged 6 months) to Year 2 (aged 7). The process involves lengthy preparation examining regulatory information provided by the School, a formal inspection in School, surveys with parents and pupils, as well as interviews with staff, directors and students.

The Nursery and Pre-Prep achieved outstanding (the highest possible grade) across all five areas of inspection.

ISI are an independent, government-approved body which provides objective inspections to safeguard the quality and effectiveness of the education, care and welfare of children in schools. They are equivalent to Ofsted and inspections are carried out every three years. The reports are a useful independent and objective comparison tool for parents selecting schools based on the quality of education delivered.

The inspection focused on educational quality and compliance and judged the School to be fully compliant with all statutory regulations and requirements.

Here is an overview of the full report which is available on both our website and the ISI website.



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...all children receive the best possible support and care.

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"The overall effectiveness of the early years provision is **Outstanding**"

The inspectors were pleased to observe that "The setting provides a very high standard of care and staff demonstrate a deep knowledge of how children of this age learn".

Inspectors noted that "...the personal and emotional development of the children is outstanding."

Inspectors remarked that "Leadership and management demonstrate a strong commitment towards continuous improvement through detailed cohesive self-evaluation and a clear vision for future developments".

They applauded the school for the fact that "...all children receive the best possible support and care."



"The quality of education is **Outstanding**"

They commended the school commenting "The curriculum is extremely well balanced and provide excellent opportunities for children's communication and language, physical skills and personal, social and emotional development".

Inspectors commented that "Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn at this young age." and that "Staff readily engage with children during routine activities and take every opportunity to develop language and social skills".

They noted that "Positive feedback is given to children through appropriate use of praise and encouragement" and that "...highly effective links are in place with parents and there is a two-way sharing of information...".

Inspectors observed "The high-quality experiences that children receive, provides them with a firm foundation for future learning." and that "Children are very well prepared for the next stage of their education."



“Leadership and management are **Outstanding**”



Inspectors observed that “The strong direction from the leadership team results in an enthusiastic and strong team of staff in the Nursery, who share an ambitious vision to provide high quality education and exemplary levels of care”.

They found that “Leaders consistently monitor the standards of care and regularly scrutinize the curriculum to ensure that high standards are maintained”.

They applauded the fact that “Staff are extremely well qualified...” and that “Leaders know the children very well and respond quickly to the needs of children, including those with SEND and additional needs.”

“High priority is given to safeguarding and the implementation of all health and safety policies to ensure that children are kept safe.”

“The personal development of children is **Outstanding**”

The inspectors were pleased to observe that “The highly effective care practices that staff employ, support children’s emotional security and development of their character, so that children feel extremely happy and safe”.

They commented “Children know that they can seek assurance from their key person at any time...” and that “Parents report, during discussion, that they are given the time they need to share information about their child with the key person during handovers at the beginning and at the end of the day”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “Staff help children to lead a healthy lifestyle from the very beginning of their time at the setting”.

Inspectors observed that “They provide children with high quality cooked food, fresh drinking water and fruit for snacks”.

Inspectors remarked that “British values of fairness, tolerance and kindness towards each other underpin the setting’s practices”.



“Behaviour and attitudes are **Outstanding**”



Inspectors commended the school saying “Children show great enjoyment in their learning” and praised that toddlers “maintain excellent focus on activities for appropriate periods of time. . .”.

They remarked that “Children of all ages in the setting are keen to ‘have a go’ for themselves and will persevere until they manage to do something”.

The inspectors were pleased to observe that “Staff encourage children to be creative and inventive in their play so that they can develop their own ideas. . .”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “Children demonstrate excellent behavior and show respect for one another, often helping each other to find things.”.



Louise Leah, Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep said:

“I am thrilled with our five outstanding ratings across the board in this latest inspection and that this is the third consecutive outstanding inspection we have received. We believe that by creating a happy, nurturing environment for both the children and the staff, a first-class education follows.

“This report reflects the outstanding education the children receive, the choice and breadth of our offer as well as the high outcomes the children attain in our happy environment. Investing in the Early Years of your child’s education is proven to be the best investment a parent will ever make.”

Mrs Louise Leah
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep





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