



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

NURSERY
& PRE - PREP

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

March 2017

“Children make excellent progress in their learning and development relative to their starting points.”

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.

CHALLENGE

NURTURE

INSPIRE



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 March 2017, by a team of 18 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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Pupils' attainment is above and often well above national age-related expectations.

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“The overall effectiveness of the early years provision is Outstanding”



The inspectors were pleased to observe that “Children make excellent progress in their learning and development relative to their starting points”.

Inspectors noted that “Effectively planned teaching meets the needs of the children including those with SEND or EAL extremely well and enables them to advance rapidly”, and commented that “Children’s personal and social and emotional development is outstanding as a result of the substantial support

they receive from the highly trained and caring staff”.

Inspectors remarked that “Children feel very safe, secure and happy in the setting. Parents expressed that they and their children find the setting to be extremely caring and welcoming”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “Staff fulfil their responsibility for protecting children in their care extremely effectively”.



“The effectiveness of leadership and management is Outstanding”



They commended the school commenting “They demonstrate an ambitious vision to create a safe and caring environment where all children can thrive”. Inspectors commented that “Parents in interview were extremely positive about the setting and the progress that their children make” and that “Parents also conveyed that leaders and staff keep them very well informed about the setting and that the staff know their children extremely well”.

They noted that “Leaders ensure that the educational

programmes reflect children’s interests and provide children with an excellent beginning to their education” and that “Leaders ensure that children with SEND or EAL receive outstanding support from specialists within the school and external professionals”.

Inspectors observed “Excellent role modelling by staff and constant encouragement to all children to show respect, tolerance and kindness towards each other”.



“The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is Outstanding”

Inspectors commended the school saying “Staff have an extremely good understanding of the age group they work with” and praised that they “use their excellent knowledge of individual children to plan challenging and engaging activities that meet their needs extremely well”.

They remarked that “Leaders and staff work in partnership with parents and keep them extremely well informed about their children’s progress”.

The inspectors were pleased to observe that “Parents are invited to attend workshops about the curriculum such as ‘Babbling Babies’ and ‘Talking Toddlers’”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “They interact with children very effectively and provide them with an excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, all of which enthuse, motivate and engage children and lead to outstanding learning”.

Inspectors noted that “They make excellent use of praise and encouragement to motivate children, and ask skilful questions that develop children’s knowledge, understanding, and communication and language skills extremely well”.

They observed that “Children develop excellent physical, personal, social and emotional skills”.



“Personal development, behaviour and welfare are Outstanding”



The inspectors were pleased to observe that “Children demonstrate great pride in their achievements and are extremely motivated to learn as a result of the very stimulating environment”.

They commented “Children exhibit outstanding levels of self-confidence, imagination and independence” and that “They form extremely strong emotional attachments with staff and willingly go to them for reassurance and comfort when necessary”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “Staff

prepare children socially and emotionally for moving up to their next classrooms and year groups extremely effectively”.

Inspectors observed that “Staff have extremely high expectations of behaviour and act as excellent role models in this regard”.

Inspectors remarked that “Their healthy lifestyle is promoted by the provision of freshly prepared lunches and snacks, and by access to the outside areas or exercise and play”.



“Personal development, behaviour and welfare are Outstanding”

Inspectors observed that “Children display extremely high levels of engagement in tasks and strong independence, often making suggestions about what they would like to do”.

They found that “All different groups of children make rapid progress from their starting points, and about a third exceed the level of development that is typical for their age”.

They applauded the fact that “Children are extremely

well prepared for their next stage in their education”.



Mrs Kathy McLauchlan,
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep

Kathy McLauchlan, 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 children need to be children and we strive to provide the highest quality care and education in line with our vision of excellence and opportunity. 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.”

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

Taunton Prep School was reviewed by The Good Schools Guide in January 2017.

Read the review here

www.tauntonschool.co.uk/gsgprep





**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

**NURSERY
& PRE - PREP**

Staplegrave Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6AE

Nursery Admissions

nursery@tauntonschool.co.uk

01823 703302

Pre-Prep Admissions

tpsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk

01823 703303

www.tauntonschool.co.uk



@TauntonSchool



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