



26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Ofsted Report

Dear Parent or carer,

I am writing to you to share with you the very positive outcome from our recent one day, unannounced inspection from Ofsted on safeguarding. You can find the full report on our website.

The inspectors scrutinised the school's procedures for ensuring that students are safe and supported by the school. The inspectors talked with a large number of students in and outside of lessons and received comments from parents, staff and governors, as well as examining the school's documentation, policies and practices.

The inspectors found that:

- The school's curriculum met students' personal needs and ensured their welfare and safety.
- There was a strong culture of safeguarding at the school.
- The school has strong and effective links with a wide range of relevant outside agencies when working with students and families who need additional support.
- The school has developed strong links with other agencies, including counselling and mental health services and has increased the support available for students with mental health needs. Northfield's work with CAMHS and the Samaritans was recognised as a strength of the school.
- Students demonstrate tolerance and respect for others.
- Students' work in guidance lessons has helped them to understand the dangers of self-harming and increased their ability to manage stressful situations.
- Leaders are not complacent about bullying.
- Students report that incidents of bullying are rare.
- Every student asked by the inspectors throughout the inspection indicated that a trusted adult was available to them and that issues were tackled promptly by staff.
- Students spoke highly of the Guidance Teams
- Leaders recognised the need to support students' mental health and well being
- Students benefit from extensive opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

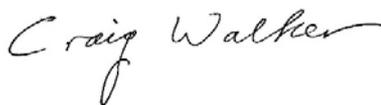
- Students have a range of avenues to access support when they are anxious about issues within and beyond the school.
- Students conduct themselves well around the school.
- Corridors and shared areas are orderly and well-supervised during break and lunchtimes.
- The vast majority of students demonstrate good attitudes to learning.
- Students demonstrate a positive approach to school.
- Students feel that they are treated fairly and with compassion by leaders at the school.
- Leaders are ambitious for the achievements of vulnerable students.
- Staff know the students well and work hard to overcome barriers to learning
- Good quality classroom-based support for students who have complex special educational needs and/or disabilities allows them to access the curriculum alongside their peers.
- Leaders are tenacious at following up non-attendance, acting quickly where support is required from other agencies to help families.

I am pleased that once again, Ofsted has recognised the quality and effectiveness of the school's anti-bullying programme. Congratulations to our Peer Supporters, School Council and Junior Leadership Team, who receive praise for their work in the report.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support of the school. At a time when children's mental health issues are making headlines locally and nationally I was very pleased that Ofsted praised the school for its provision and support for our young people. At a time when schools are having to cut back on mental health and well-being, Northfield is investing more finances and increasing staff training in this area. Indeed, Northfield is part of a local authority pilot project entitled 'Mental Health First Aid for Schools and Colleges' which will provide training for key staff on areas such as mental health, how to spot symptoms of mental health issues and Mental Health First Aid. Once trained, the key members of staff will deliver training to all staff at the school. The school is also working with Mind ED as part of the national mental health commission's work in the region.

Everyone at Northfield strives, on a daily basis, to ensure that our students are safe. As the reports states there is 'a strong culture of safeguarding' at Northfield.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Walker  
Headteacher



Many Minds One Heart  
**We Are Northfield**

