



EASTCOURT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the publication of our recent ISI inspection report. As this was our first ISI inspection, and because its publication was significantly delayed, I want to explain what has taken place and share the outcomes clearly, including the actions already taken and those that continue to be implemented.

The inspection took place in October 2025. The delay arose because we submitted a factual accuracy check, followed by a formal complaint, which then progressed to the final stage of the process: adjudication. Throughout this period, we have continued to seek truth and clarity, taking legal advice as recommended by the DfE using a specialist in this field recommended by the ISA.

What the inspection recognised

It is important to begin by acknowledging that the report highlights many of the strengths we see every day at Eastcourt. In particular, it recognises:

- the warmth, care and dedication of our staff
- the strong, positive relationships between pupils and teachers
- a nurturing environment that supports both learning and personal development
- pupils' strong academic progress, including reading and writing beyond age-related expectations
- effective preparation for senior school entrance examinations
- the promotion of respect, tolerance and confidence

These aspects reflect the values at the heart of our school and the reason many families choose Eastcourt.

Areas of dispute and the adjudication outcome

The report also identifies a number of regulatory and administrative standards as unmet. We do not agree with several of these judgements and formally challenged them throughout the inspection process.

At adjudication stage, the adjudicator confirmed that two of the standards listed as unmet should not have been included, as the evidence demonstrated that the requirement was in fact met.

There remain other points where we continue to dispute the judgements reached. Some relate to interpretation. In others, having sought legal advice, we have received clear and definitive professional endorsement of our position. An example of this involves listing as a



regulatory failure a requirement that ceased to be mandatory in 2024. While the inspection process has now concluded, we believe it is important to be open with parents that we do not consider the report, as published, to present a fully accurate or balanced picture of the school. We are continuing to challenge its contents.

Safeguarding and pupil wellbeing

I want to be absolutely clear on this point: the inspection confirmed that safeguarding is in place. The report recognises effective pastoral care, close monitoring of pupils and appropriate links with external agencies. No child at Eastcourt has been identified as being at risk.

Where administrative process have been identified as needing improvement, we have acted promptly to strengthen systems and documentation.

Actions taken

Regardless of our disagreement with aspects of the report, we have taken the inspection seriously and used it to further improve our procedures. This includes:

- administrative systems - informing LBR of all leavers and joiners. Previously we only reported those considered vulnerable or high risk. Now we inform the borough of every child joining and leaving the school. At no time did the previous directive result in safeguarding concerns
 - commissioning additional external surveys - accredited firms completed surveys for Asbestos, RAAC and legionella
 - moving to a fully electronic attendance system - StudyBugs. This includes new DfE codes. (e.g 'G' instead of 'U' for unauthorised absence due to holiday).
- These steps have been taken to ensure clarity, consistency and reassurance for all.

Looking ahead

Most importantly, our priorities remain unchanged.

We remain fully committed to:

- the happiness, safety and wellbeing of every child
- high academic standards and excellent preparation for selective secondary schools
- seeing every pupil through to their secondary school selection tests

The inspection outcome does not affect the school's plans for the coming years. We remain committed to the future of Eastcourt and to the families who place their trust in us, including those joining us in 2026 and beyond.

We know that these are uncertain times for independent schools more widely. In that context, we are deeply grateful for the confidence and support shown by our parent community, including the very positive parental feedback recognised by inspectors.



Eastcourt has been educating children for over a century. We are proud of our pupils, including our current Year 6 cohort whose excellent 11+ results speak for themselves, and we are determined to continue building on that legacy.

We are always happy to speak openly and answer questions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your continued support of the school.

Many thanks,

E.Redgrave

Miss Emma Redgrave
Headteacher