

Celebrating Our Ofsted Report

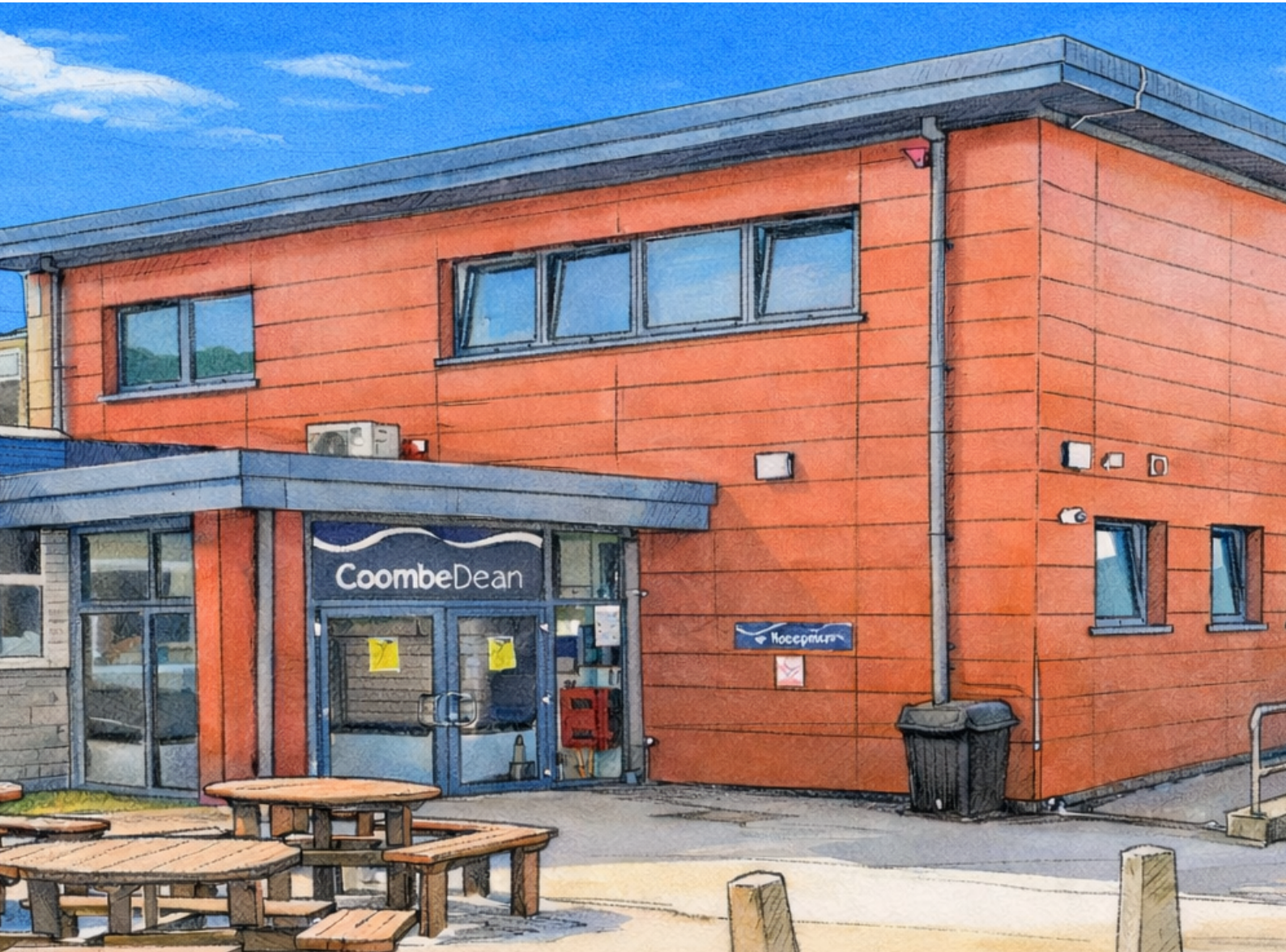


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“There is an inclusive culture within the school”

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“Pupils value being part of a community where they can support each other”





Coombe Dean is the **first** non-selective school in the South West to receive a **'strong standard'** in 'Curriculum and Teaching' and 'Inclusion'.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to our Ofsted special edition newsletter. We would like to share with you the fantastic outcomes of our recent Ofsted report.

Understanding the Report

Ofsted has introduced report cards to help parents better understand how schools are performing. You can find an explanation video here: [Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades - GOV.UK](#)

In terms of the standards reflected in our report, Ofsted defines the 'expected standard' by outlining that 'the school or other provider is doing everything that it should be doing... It's a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve.'

Ofsted describes the 'strong standard' as reflecting 'excellent, consistent work that's making a real difference for children and learners'.

We are especially proud of this report because, under the new 2025 Ofsted framework, achieving a 'strong standard' is far from common. Across the South West, only 1 out of 13 inspected secondary schools has so far achieved a strong standard for Curriculum and Teaching, and only 1 out of 13 has achieved a strong standard for Inclusion. This places our report in a very small group regionally and highlights the exceptional strength of our provision for pupils. It is also of note that Coombe Dean School is the first non-

selective school in the region to receive a 'strong standard' grading in these areas. Nationally, the picture is similar. Across 194 secondary inspections, only 18% of schools have achieved a strong standard for Curriculum and Teaching. For Inclusion, 31% have achieved a strong standard. These figures show just how significant it is for our school to be recognised so positively in these key areas.*

Coombe Dean School: A School to Be Proud Of

We are incredibly proud of our school community. The inspection recognises not only the quality of education we provide, but also the culture, relationships and opportunities that define daily life here.

Inspectors captured this especially powerfully in the section entitled 'what it's like to be a pupil at this school':



The Coombe Dean School's values of community, integrity and opportunity are well understood by pupils. Pupils and staff share warm, respectful relationships with other members of the school community. Pupils feel cared for, which makes them feel safe. Older pupils and sixth-form students act as role models for younger pupils. For example, they run music clubs and volunteer as sports leaders. Members of the school council, 'The Senate', are proud of their role in making the school a better place for all.

Pupils of all ages enjoy their learning and understand the importance of attending well. The high-quality curriculum and effective teaching they receive across the curriculum means that they are successful in their chosen qualifications. Pupils particularly value the individual careers information and guidance they receive to help them with their future aspirations. This means that pupils move successfully to their chosen education, employment or training destinations.

Pupils understand their responsibilities for behaving well. The clear routines and high expectations for behaviour mean that pupils can learn without disruption. On the rare occasion that bullying occurs, it is dealt with swiftly. It is clearly not tolerated. A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities help pupils to develop their talents and interests. For example, they can join music and drama clubs or sport teams. This focus on developing pupils as citizens means that they are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Leaders have created a school culture, where all staff work together to support pupils. Pupils' individual barriers for either their learning or wellbeing are carefully identified. Swift and well-matched support is then provided for these pupils. The high-quality pastoral and academic support mean that pupils overcome their individual challenges to be successful in their learning.



*figures accurate at time of publication (May 6th 2026)

Inspection Highlights

The report recognises many strengths across the school, and we invite you to read the report in full. The report contains the following highlights:

“The curriculum is broad, ambitious and high quality across all subjects.”

“There is an inclusive culture within the school.”

“Pupils value being part of a community where they can support each other.”

“Staff are highly ambitious for all pupils.”

“Staff help pupils effectively secure the knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics that they need for their subsequent learning.”

“Pupils across all years learn the intended curriculum effectively and are ready for the next stage of education.”

“Leaders and staff have put in place clear routines to teach pupils how to behave. These help to create a calm and orderly environment around the school.”

“Leaders set high expectations for attendance. Pupils understand the importance of not missing learning.”

“Pupils typically behave well and show a positive attitude towards their learning.”

“Leaders have a clear ambition to provide high-quality education for all pupils. Leaders at all levels act with integrity and in the best interest of children...The actions that leaders have taken are having a positive impact.”

“Parents and carers are positive about the school and feel able to share their views with leaders.”

“Leaders have created a culture of support and professional growth for staff.”

“Leaders have designed a personal, social and health curriculum that prepares pupils well for adult life.”

“The careers provision is a strength of the school...This is raising pupils' aspirations for the future.”

“The school provides a range of extra-curricular opportunities, such as clubs, trips and workshops.”

“Leaders ensure the Post-16 curriculum is delivered to the same high standard as the other key stages... Teachers employ highly effective strategies to support students to successfully learn the curriculum.”

“Students are particularly complimentary about the high expectations set for their behaviour and attendance. They view this as a sign of how staff both care about them and want them to be successful.”



Looking Ahead: Our Next Steps

The report reflects the strong progress we have made as a school and recognises the dedication of our staff and leadership in continually striving to provide the very best for our students.

We welcome the next steps identified by inspectors and are already taking action. Since the visit, our trust-level governance restructure has progressed further, strengthening leadership and oversight. We are also continuing to develop strategies to help pupils embed and recall prior learning over time, particularly within the personal development curriculum.

A key priority moving forward is to further embed the highly effective teaching strategies already in place, ensuring that pupils' achievement continues to rise. We are pleased that Ofsted has recognised this work as being of 'strong standard' in curriculum and teaching, highlighting its importance in the next phase of our development.

Thank You to Our Community

This report is a reflection of the collective effort of our entire school community - students, staff, parents and carers. We are proud of what has been achieved and excited about the future as we continue to build on these strong foundations.

Please click [here](#) to open the full report.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Caroline Granville
Headteacher

