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9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent

As you know the school was recently visited by the ISI Inspection Team. They conducted a compliance inspection of the whole school and an educational quality inspection of the Nursery.

The inspectors were very impressed with Hilden Oaks. They particularly commented on the responses to the parent and staff survey; the Reporting Inspector said that she had never seen such uniformly enthusiastic feedback from a school community at any previous inspection.

Equally, in the visits they made to classrooms and interviews with staff and pupils, they were struck by the quality of teaching and learning, the nurturing and stimulating culture of the whole school and the 'impeccable behaviour' of the pupils. They also commented on the good progress that pupils make and the high level of attainment that was evident across the school. The feedback on the nursery was equally affirming in terms of the quality of provision and the standard of teaching and learning taking place.

However, during the inspection a few issues were identified in the administration of the school's Single Central Register which is the formal record of all employed staff, contractors and volunteers. The Reporting Inspector confirmed that children are safe at Hilden Oaks and whilst relevant checks had been carried out and could be evidenced, they had not all been recorded, stored and monitored to the required standard; in particular some records post-dated the individual's employment or were undated. As a result of these shortcomings, she had no option but to report that the school has not met the standards in relation to the two areas of safeguarding, and leadership and management.

**Headmistress**

**Mrs KJM Joiner NNEB, BEd (Hons), QTS, MEd**

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Having met the required standard on all the other criteria, including Quality of Education; Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development; Health and Safety, Premises and Provision of Information this was a disappointing outcome. Indeed, the Nursery would have received an 'Outstanding' rating across the board had it not been for our non-compliance in these two areas.

I would like to reassure you that the trustees, Mrs Joiner and the senior leadership team are, and always have been committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the whole school community and I apologise to parents, pupils and staff that, on this occasion, we fell short of the high standards which the inspectors rightly expect.

Since the inspection, Mrs Joiner and the bursary team have conducted a complete review of the records, processes and systems around the management of the Single Central Register and engaged an experienced ISI Compliance Inspector who has approved their action plan. The School is already well on the way to implementing all its elements and I am confident that when it is re-inspected in the near future, the inspectors will report that we are fully compliant.

The inspection report is now on the school website [www.hildenoaks.co.uk/inspections](http://www.hildenoaks.co.uk/inspections). If you would like to discuss any of its contents, Mrs Joiner or I are happy to do so.

Yours Faithfully



**Derick Walker**  
Chair of Trustees



**Headmistress**  
Mrs KJM Joiner NNEB, BEd (Hons), QTS, MEd

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