

School Statement Regarding The ISI Report - Inwoods Small School

This statement is written to accompany the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI) Report of Brockwood Park School and Inwoods Small School. The inspection took place in February 2023, over two days.

In England, schools are regulated by the government and are inspected periodically. These regulatory frameworks, created by the Department for Education (DfE) to be enforced by inspecting bodies such as Ofsted and Independent School Inspectorate (ISI), are becoming exceedingly prescriptive, restrictive and punitive. This means that educators and schools are under increasing pressure to do what is asked of them rather than what they feel needs to happen. This fact was highlighted recently when a headteacher committed suicide as a result of an inspection by Ofsted, followed by an outcry in the education sector and beyond. This incident brought a lot of reaction from schools and teachers across the UK about the regulatory framework and the manner in which inspections are carried out. You can see some of the news headlines [here](#).

Even though Brockwood Park and Inwoods are inspected by ISI, it faces similar challenges, in particular due to its ethos and intentions which are about offering a very different type of education and learning space than most schools. With the recent inspection occurring over only two days, you can imagine our difficulty conveying the whole of both school's educational approach and ethos to the inspectors, who were themselves under pressure to do their job in the two days and arrive at a verdict.

As it is evident from the report, the focus of the recent inspection was mainly Brockwood and not Inwoods. The inspectors only visited Inwoods for a short period of time during the inspection and found no concerns during this visit.

As a team we will continue to do the best we can to provide a holistic, sensitive, safe, child centred approach to learning where relationship and love of learning are central to what we do. We feel fortunate that Inwoods Small School enjoys strong support from the parents and are thankful for this.

School Management Committee