

**News release
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Kent's best providers praised as Ofsted publishes Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's Annual Report for 2010/11

Woodlands Junior School in Tonbridge leads the way

Ofsted today publishes the Annual Report 2010/11, drawing on over 31,000 inspection visits across the schools, early years, children's social care and learning and skills sectors of England.

This report highlights where improvements are being made but also the need for greater ambition from services for children, young people and learners that are no better than satisfactory.

Alongside the Annual Report, Ofsted today releases a full list of those childminders, nurseries, schools, colleges, adult learning providers and social care providers who have been judged outstanding in the past year.

In Kent, 99 childcare providers, 17 schools and 10 children's social care providers have been rewarded with this top judgement in 2010/11.*

Headteacher Mary Priestley from Woodlands Junior School in Tonbridge, Kent said:

"I am so pleased that Woodlands Junior has received this accolade of 'outstanding' provider, as it recognises the vibrant and optimistic learning environment in which our pupils thrive. The school's success is due to the role played by teachers, parents and carers whose care, guidance and support is invaluable for pupils' academic and social achievements. Woodlands not only teaches pupils to be involved in improving their work, it also encourages them to make an outstanding contribution to the community."

Commenting on the successful achievement of all these local providers, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen said:

"Everyone who has contributed towards the delivery of the outstanding services across Kent deserves our recognition. From the visits I make around the country, I know just how much hard work and dedication goes in to delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and learners. I hope others will be inspired by these successful providers."

Across England, the Annual Report reflected positively on the decrease in the number of inadequate schools and the increased speed with which schools are coming out of 'special measures'. However, it also revealed that:

- 14% of schools inspected this year, nearly 800, have been judged satisfactory for the second time and only have satisfactory capacity to improve
- 16 of the 84 colleges inspected were satisfactory for the third time in a row.

The report highlights continuing concerns about the quality of provision for those children and learners from deprived backgrounds or who may be vulnerable. The more deprived the family a child comes from, the more likely they are to attend an inadequate school. The fifth of schools serving the most deprived pupils were four times more likely to be inadequate at inspection this year than the fifth of schools serving the least deprived. There are also substantial differences in quality of childcare between more and less affluent areas. But there is also evidence of how it can be done well – this year alone, 85 schools serving pupils from the most deprived families were judged outstanding and the gap in standards between early years providers in the most and least deprived areas has closed slightly.

Reflecting on the findings of the Annual Report, Miriam Rosen, HMCI, said:

“Inspection is about helping services to improve so that children, young people and learners of all ages can benefit from the very best. It is therefore encouraging to see from this year’s Annual Report the strides being taken by some of those who have previously been judged to be failing.

“However, it is a concern that those very children and young people who most need the best services are often those being let down. Our inspections show that providers can be outstanding even in the most difficult circumstances. The challenge must be to help others replicate such success and Ofsted has an important part to play in this by sharing good practice and raising expectations.”

Other national highlights from the report show that:

- Overall, 57% of inspected schools provided their pupils with good or outstanding education. This is in the context of a more risk-based approach to inspection, where outstanding schools were not routinely re-inspected.
- The childcare sector continues to perform well, with 74% of early years providers either good or outstanding.
- In the learning and skills sector, 39 out of the 84 colleges inspected this year were either good or outstanding.
- Of the 47 local authorities who received a full safeguarding inspection this year, nine were judged inadequate for services that keep children and young people safe; 25 were adequate and 13 were good.

ENDS

Notes to editors

* Kent breakdown of outstanding providers 2010/11

	Children's centres	Children's social care	Early years and childcare	Further education	Independent education	Initial teacher education	Schools	Service Children's Education	Adult skills and employment	Grand Total
Kent		10	88				17			115
Medway			11							11
Kent Totals		10	99				17			126

1. The full list of outstanding providers broken down by local authority and a link to the inspection report for the providers mentioned above can be found on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk
2. *The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2010/11* and the *Outstanding Providers List 2010/11* will be published on Ofsted's website www.ofsted.gov.uk at 10am on Tuesday 22 November, to coincide with the presentation of the report to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Education. The information within this press release is strictly embargoed until this time.
3. For interview requests with Ofsted's Regional Director for the South, Sean Harford, please contact Sam Rae/Jo Page at COI on 0117 917 5058. **For all other press queries contact the Ofsted press office on 020 7421 6622 / 5911.**