

### ***The true view of our school from our current parents;***

*“My youngest son has just completed two years at the Minors Nursery School. I cannot speak highly enough about this nursery school. The environment and staff are very caring and the children make great academic progress during these pre-school years. By the time they leave they are ready for school, and in my opinion they are better prepared than many children from other top nursery schools.*

*I have read and considered the recent Ofsted report. The criticism that staff should spend more time encouraging children in their own language is, in my view, unfounded. There are many international parents who speak a significant range of different languages. Staff cannot be expected to support such a range of language. Indeed that cannot be the purpose of the school. The school prepares children for admission into an English speaking pre-prep and that is what they focus on. That is what the parents want them to focus on.*

*I have had personal experience of three private nursery schools in the Kensington/Notting Hill area. Although all have been at a high standard, the Minors is in my view the best. Mrs Thompson, the head mistress, is extremely experienced and professional. Her staff are carefully chosen.*

*If you are fortunate enough to gain a place at this nursery school, please do not hesitate to send your child here. Parents are better informed than Ofsted inspectors!”*

*Jacqueline, mother of Big Star Freddie 2015-16.*

*“Having now sent all three of our children to The Minors Nursery (both boy and girl) I can safely say that it has become a home away from home. Viv and her team make the transition to starting school such a gentle, warm and nurturing one that very soon these teachers are seen as extended family. The only time I have ever had tears was during the holidays - because my girls MISSED their school (100% truth)! Communication with parents is extremely impressive, ranging from newsletters to a weekly "stay and play" and with the door always wide open to pop in for a chat. Parents' concerns are never ignored, never belittled; always taken seriously and addressed immediately with the utmost professional and sensitive balance of care. The children are so, so happy at Minors and there is a joyful calmness that exudes from the school at the very knock of that green front door. My children have learned so much and grown so much in their two years of nursery because of this perfect equilibrium between teaching and guiding - added to the weekly music and drama lessons, the mud kitchen, art and educational play. We have made friends for life - not only with fellow pupils and parents but also, I firmly believe, with the staff. I cannot recommend The Minors Nursery highly enough.”*

*Emily, parents of ex pupil Eloise, current pupil Big Star Aline and a little brother to follow!*

*“As a past parent under Viv Thompson, I can say that there is no school in the world I would prefer my children to be at!*

*The attention to detail, the individual care that each child gets, the love and warmth that simply oozes out of the school is second to none.*

*I will, from now on, never rely on an Ofsted report when looking at future schools for my children, as they are clearly not aimed at the private sector, and really show me that their ‘investigations’ are obviously not worth the paper they are written on.*

*I have missed going to the school everyday!”*

*Carla, parent of ex pupil James.*

*“We have had two children attend Minors, and our third will follow. Mrs Thompson and all the team do a terrific job of creating a wonderful environment for the children. I believe it is an outstanding school on all dimensions, and feel it has been instrumental to the successful development of my children. I can’t recommend it highly enough.”*

*Peter and Emma, parents of ex pupil Leo and current Big Star Arthur*

*“We all love Minor's and so does William!  
Thank you for all your unstinting hard work and efforts!”  
Victoria, parent of current Big Star William*

*Having just had our first child at The Minors Nursery School and now our second become a Little Star we can only say wonderful, admiring things about the nursery. Our first son adored Minors. He flourished and blossomed, not only academically but also in confidence. He had a very warm, close relationship with all the Little Star and latterly the Big Star staff and he was also very close to Mrs Thompson (who is by far the kindest, most supportive and dedicated head mistress I have every had the pleasure to meet). My eldest son has gone on to thrive in his Reception year and I firmly believe that a great part of that is down to the care and dedication of the Minors Nursery School and all the staff there.*

*Our second son started this September and even though he has always been a complete Mummy's boy he now rushes into nursery to see all his little friends. He bounds out when I pick him up smiling and chatting and is so content. It is a joy to watch him grow daily in an environment that supports every part of his development.*

*As a bilingual family - my husband is Italian, I am English, we work hard at keeping the children speaking both languages but this is done at home. The Minors Nursery School is very supportive but this is not something that we in any way expect them to take on. There are so many children who are bilingual now it would be virtually impossible to have all the children speaking their second language at nursery without it being detrimental to the other little ones (especially in the space of three hours). This is simply not practical and should not be a reason for not maintaining their well-deserved 'Outstanding' result.*

*My husband and I firmly believe that The Minors Nursery School deserves an 'Outstanding' result from the Ofsted report. The nursery is 'Outstanding' and we only have wonderful comments to make on every aspect of the quality of care and education that takes place there. All the staff are committed, kind, dedicated, professional and incredibly hard working and as we are now expecting baby number three we are more than excited for her to attend this wonderful institution.*

*Sophie and Giovanni, parents of ex pupil Leonardo and current Little Star Federico*

*“I am saddened to hear this. From the start your school has been utterly wonderful at welcoming Sienna and helping her adjust to school with incredible sensitivity and knowledge. She has adored Minors from her first day and is devastated whenever she is ill and has to stay at home. Every evening we hear new tales of exciting exploits and new facts, she is growing and learning so much and we give the school complete credit. You and your staff are so talented and we are incredibly grateful that Sienna has such a nurturing and delightful environment to learn in whilst making some firm friends along the way. If only every child could begin their education in such a supportive and, in my view, unquestionably outstanding school.”*

*Thea, parent of current Little Star Sienna*

*"We think Minors is outstanding. We have been consistently impressed by the level of care and engagement each and every member of staff has with the children. All staff have an incredible ability to combine learning with pure enjoyment. The importance of confidence, sense of self and the utter joy of exploration and understanding are core values that Minors instil in each and every student. The team at Minors are always striving to deliver the best for the children in their care. We could not think more highly of this nursery or the staff that work there. "*

*Emma & Michael, parents of ex pupil Rosalind and current Big Star Hannah*

*You all do such an amazing job with our children in such a nurturing environment and provide only the best for their personal child development. We are very fortunate to have our children attend such an enriching nursery school, MINORS.*

*Maya is our fourth daughter attending Minors and the other three immensely benefited by starting their schooling life in such a wonderful and homely environment.*

*I fail to understand emphasis on the mother tongue issue, something that surely can be dealt with at the children's homes, particularly given the time constraints at school. Thank you.*

*Heidi, parent of three ex pupils and current Little Star Maya*

*"We were extremely surprised to learn that Ofsted have dropped their rating of Minors from "Outstanding" to "Good", which in our view is not at all reflective of the school's highest educational standards, the incredible quality of the teachers and staff led by Headmistress Mrs Viv Thompson, and in turn, the wonderfully nurturing and happy environment that they have created for young children like our son.*

*We have absolutely loved Minors Nursery and would never consider sending our children anywhere else. Members of staff, including Mrs Thompson, intimately know all the children and work so hard not only to develop strong bonds with every single child but also to ensure that parents are closely involved in the education and development of their young ones. Activities are carefully tailored to ensure that every child's interests and needs are met.*

*The result is that, since joining Minors earlier this year, our eldest son has already developed in so many ways. He is much more confident and balanced, is expressing himself much more articulately, and he truly looks forward to going to nursery every day.*

*We are so glad to have chosen Minors and are immensely grateful for the difference the school has made in the very early stages of our eldest son's educational process.*

*A big and warm thank you to Mrs. Thompson, the teachers and staff for caring so much about our little one and making him so happy, comfortable and well-settled!*

*Mrs Thompson - we already look forward to entrusting you and the school in a few years with the development of our second son, who was only born a few weeks ago."*

*Shelina & Ali parents of current Little Star Mikail*

*"All too often bureaucracy takes precedence over common sense. The Inspector's findings are a case in point. Had she departed from her prescriptive checklist and actually bothered to descend into the detail of a day in the life of a toddler at Minors, she would have discovered a rich, happy and nurturing environment, where each child is made to feel special and individual needs met on an evolving basis. She would also have discovered a wonderful and inspiring team. I can best sum up by saying that it is always a delight to walk through the doors of Minors."*

*Lucy and Andrew, parents of current Little Star Evie*

*"Dear Minors Team,*

*Remember you're all fabulous - celebrate the great successes and ongoing wonderful achievements!"*

*Guillaume and Victoria, parents of current Little Star Amelia*

*"This report does not do justice to the school. It is interesting to note that when minors was rated outstanding there was no requirement for this multilingual approach.*

*I want my children to develop a strong foundation in English. An appreciation of different cultures and heritages is important but from a language skill perspective English is key.*

*I have put one child through minors and a second is going through. The first is flourishing in his next school. My daughter who is going to minors is happy and confident*

*Grading means a lot to the school. To us, Minors and the team have been outstanding.*

*So having lived in this area for many years and sent both our children to minors, we beg to differ with the Ofsted inspector who spent one morning at the school."*

*Sakis and Leila, parents of ex pupil Alex and current Little Star Sofia*

*"It is obviously disappointing for the teachers that the Ofsted inspector didn't see how great the school is, but no matter what the report says we are delighted with the school and in our eyes it is outstanding."*

*Sophie, parent of ex pupil's Kate, Charlie and Rose and current Little Star Lizzie*

*"Following their father's footsteps, both our boys went to Minors nursery and were extremely happy there.*

*The team of teachers is both highly qualified but also kind, caring and helpful. They create a happy environment in which the children develop, learn and become happy, confident, well rounded. They prepare them nicely to start school both emotionally and academically. We would highly recommend Minors to friends and family. In fact my sister's son is coming to Minors in a few years!"*

*Diane and Khaled, parents of ex pupil Tarek and current Little Star Teymour*

*“In the 3 months Sophia has been attending, we have seen her confidence grow and her little personality develop. Her grasp of English has significantly improved given we speak Greek and Dutch at home. Sophia wakes up and asks to go to Minors every day (even weekends) and once home, excitedly shares what she’s been up to. We viewed (and were offered places at) a number of top London nurseries but ultimately chose Minors based on friends recommendations and reputation. 3 months on, we really couldn’t have chosen a better set up from the leadership and teaching team through to the warm and friendly learning environment. Please continue to do what you guys do!”*

*Alexia, parent of current Little Star Sophia*

*“Minors is an outstanding nursery. This nursery is the most friendly, nurturing and supportive environment that you could imagine for your child. The teachers are natural, engaging and couldn’t be more accommodating and friendly. The progression in my daughter is incredible - now only in the first term of ‘Big Stars’, she is almost at the same stage as her older sister after a year of school. The facilities are excellent and well maintained. Communication is regular, informative and prompt. This is a beautiful nursery. The demand for Minors is proof that a space here is like gold dust.”*

*Vicky, parent of current Big Star Poppy*

*“Our 2-year old daughter is flourishing at Minors. She is always welcomed warmly. Every day, she comes home with stories about friends she has played with, new songs she has learnt, pictures she has made, as well as new words, numbers and ways of expressing herself. Minors provide an unusually rich environment for a 2 year old. She is exposed to wide variety of languages and ethnic backgrounds. Her experience of different cultures is encouraged by teachers who emphasize collaboration. Nobody gets left behind because stronger classroom characters are encouraged to take care of quieter classmates, something which tends happens naturally anyway, because the class sizes are small and the teachers are perceptive. Parental access to the teachers as well as the headmistress is unlimited; their experienced response to any parental concern is always constructive and reassuring, as well as sensitive. The school seems to be characterized by an unwritten intention to build a flourishing community spirit. At parents’ evenings, all class teachers display unusual maturity in bringing different parents together, as well as sharing their own views – as people, as much as teachers – with all of us, in private discussions or in group, which form naturally. Groups form. Perhaps this is the best sound bite for Minors. Groups form when we are encouraged to communicate with each other. Teachers and staff at Minors make an unusually skillful effort at encouraging parents to provide talking points – things the children did on holiday, or at the weekend - the telling of which allows everyone to get to know each other better. Our daughter has become unstoppable since she started school a few months ago, full of curiosity, wonder and calm happiness. She has had an outstanding start; we think that Minors is an outstanding school.”*

*Jonathan and Sangita, parents of current Little Star Zucci*

*“As a professional in the education space, I am appalled by this report and the manner in which the evaluation was conducted. Ofsted's new guidelines don’t recognize the context of a school. The measures are placed against arbitrary yardsticks rather than a mix of standards and school goals, which use to be the case. It is clear from the report that the inspector did not sample 20% of classes/parents which is usually the case for small school inspections (under 100 children) as is essential. No recording of context was taken place and reasoning as to why the school is doing things in a particular way. After 14 years working in education monitoring and evaluating institutions I am shocked at this report and its reasoning. I intend to write to Ofsted in my professional capacity to highlight what I see as an unsatisfactory inspection and feedback. The Minors is an outstanding nursery, among the best I have come across in my professional career setting up schools globally. Keep up the good work.”*

*Zelmira and George, parents of ex-pupil Isabella and current Big Star Leo*

*“We live in England and the language kids should speak at school is English. If parents want to teach a second language at home, no one stops us. The nursery may start resembling the land of Shinar (home of tower of Babel) should all our children start demonstrating the foreign language they may be learning at home! After all teachers have only three hours at their disposal.”*

*Parent of current Little Star*

*Mrs Thompson and all the team do a amazing job of creating a wonderful environment for the children. All the staff are committed, kind, dedicated, professional. I believe it is an outstanding school , and feel very privileged for my children to be able to be part of such a lovely and caring family.*

*Ombeline and Alexis, parents of both an ex and current pupil.*

*“Minors Nursery is not only outstanding but exceptional! Viv and her wonderful staff have been like a family to us and our two girls and have considered ourselves very lucky to have been accepted into the nursery. They have gone above and beyond on every front catering to the girls at each of their developmental stages and making sure that we as parents are fully informed at all times. We moved to Battersea but have commuted so far for 3 years so that our youngest now attends the nursery. Supporting additional languages is important; however this should be done at home not at the nursery where they are equipping our children with the relevant skills to pass the reception exams. Additionally it is important to note that the school is exceptional at supporting the parents through this transition period into the parents dream schools. My eldest sat the formidable test and was given more choices than I could have thought possible. As a previous Ofsted report ‘champion’ to my friends I am now very perplexed by the result and I strongly believe Ofsted should re-evaluate. Future parents have no doubt, if you can get a place at Minors then take the opportunity and you will be suitably impressed and very happy with the result; happy, kind, polite children that embrace challenges.”*

*Alethea and Oliver, parents of Izzy and Connie (and their Grandma Julie!)*