

Fosse Primary School - Ofsted Parent Meetings

February 13th 2019

Frequently Asked Questions – if there is anything else that you would like to know about the inspection, the report or what we are doing to improve the school, please come into school and arrange to see the Headteacher or another senior leader.

Q. Why has Ofsted taken this view of the school?

A. We are pleased that, on the whole, the inspection team recognised many strengths of our school, across all areas of provision.

However, inspectors did highlight some concerns relating to safeguarding and as a result the inspection team has concluded that leadership and management is graded as 'Inadequate'. As a result, although the inspectors were confident that many aspects of what we do at Fosse were seen to be good, overall the school has been graded as inadequate.

Q. Does this mean the school is now in 'Special Measures'?

A. No. As a result of the 'Inadequate' outcome, we have been judged as a school with a 'Serious Weakness'. This is very different to being put in 'Special Measures'.

We have received a 'Serious Weakness' designation because the inspection team are confident in the capacity of leaders and governors to secure the necessary improvement in the school. But they are obliged to rate us accordingly due to the very specific implications of the weaknesses they uncovered.

Q. How is the school responding to the concerns highlighted by Ofsted?

A. While it is obviously unfortunate and highly regrettable, we have fully accepted Ofsted's judgement and have already undertaken significant work to address the areas of weakness they highlighted. This has included a full review of all safeguarding procedures and further training for staff.

We feel confident that this overall judgement is not a full reflection of where we are as a school. Children enjoy coming to school, they feel safe and they know that the adults at Fosse care about them and are always available to listen to them when they are worried or concerned. It was evident during the inspection that the inspectors were impressed with many aspects of the school, in particular by making a judgement judging pupils' personal development to be Good.

We have every confidence that, with your support and the continued hard work of staff and pupils, we will be quickly back on track towards achieving a 'good' rating at our next full inspection.

Q. When are you intending to make changes?

A. We have already taken swift action to remedy the inspection team's concerns about safeguarding. We have undertaken a full safeguarding audit with the local authority and created an action plan from this to improve our record keeping and how we use this information. Senior staff have already visited other schools to look at how they record incidents and manage paperwork. All staff have received further training on safeguarding to ensure that everyone is fully aware that safeguarding is everybody's concern. There will be further training for staff, to address any areas identified.

We are confident therefore that safeguarding processes are as rigorous as they need to be and that in the future we will be able to better analyse the information we collect.

Nevertheless, this has been a lesson learnt. Pupils' safety and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do and always has been and we know this must be reflected in all our systems and processes. We will be closely monitoring these areas over the coming months to ensure everything is working as it should be and best practice is maintained.

Q. When will the school come out of 'Serious Weaknesses'?

A. We expect inspectors to return between 3-9 months following publication of the report for a monitoring visit. If the inspectors believe we have made all necessary improvements, then a full Section 5 inspection could be called immediately. We are confident that, given the significant changes we have already made, we will be quickly back on track as securely 'Good'.

In the meantime, our focus is on continuing to ensure that this is a successful year for our pupils and ensuring that this does not detract from our hard-working students and staff.

Q. How will this impact on the school in the future?

A. When Ofsted grades a school as having serious weaknesses, then the most common outcome is that an 'Academy Order' is made which takes the school out of local authority control and places it within a multi academy trust as a sponsored academy; this is what we are expecting to happen. The Regional Schools Commissioner, the body that oversees Academy sponsorship, has already been in touch with the school and we will be meeting soon. Before the inspection, the Governing Body had already started confidential conversations with a very successful local trust with the intention of joining them at some point in the near future. We are hopeful that the Regional Schools Commissioner will choose this trust as our sponsor, as we believe they will be best placed to support the school in our journey back to good and beyond.

Richard Stone
Headteacher
February 13th 2019