

Goosewell School

1st July 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

You will be aware that on 10th and 11th May, Ofsted carried out an inspection of Goosewell School. We are now able to share with you the outcomes from the visit. The full report can be found on the school website under 'About Us – Ofsted Reports.'

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/113345>

The inspection took place during the week of the national tests for Year 2 and Year 6 children. Whilst the inspection team did not disrupt the testing procedures, the Governing Body and staff felt this was unfortunate timing and did not truly reflect a 'typical' week within the school as Years 2 and 6 were not included in the teaching observations.

Due to an administration delay from Ofsted, communication with parents was delayed and paper versions of the parent surveys were unable to be distributed. We can only apologise to parents for this and also thank all those that did have the opportunity to take part in the survey. The Governing Body will communicate these grievances to Ofsted.

Ofsted gave the school an overall rating of Requires Improvement, with Good for Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare.

While the headlines show a school with the same judgements as previously given, if you read the detail of the report, it is evident that Goosewell is not a school which has stood still. So, please do read the comments in each section. Only then will you get a picture of the feedback Ofsted shared with us verbally and which describes improvements, although they note that the impact of recent changes is not yet sufficiently evident in the achievement that pupils make.

It is obviously very disappointing for all members of staff that the outcome of the inspection has found that the school requires improvement and will undoubtedly be very disappointing for you as parents also. However, it must be said that all staff of the school and the Governing Body are committed to providing the best education for the children of Goosewell School.

We are committed to putting in place the recommendations Ofsted have made. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the inspection for us was that Ofsted absolutely agreed with the priorities we have already set out for the school in our school's self-evaluation document.

Although a disappointing judgement, there were no surprises in the inspection and that demonstrates that staff and governors have an accurate view of how the school is performing now and how it can be improved.

The report should assure you that school leaders (the head, governors and senior staff) are well placed to implement the recommendations. We are developing a plan for doing so for governors to consider at their next meeting.



Healthy Schools



Despite the overall judgement, there were many strengths identified and we are pleased to share these with you:

Our children:

- are now making good progress and actions taken by leaders and teachers across the school are resulting in higher standards being achieved,
- are proud of their school, are well behaved, polite and well cared for,
- enjoy learning and respond well to an exciting curriculum and are showing good improvement in phonics, reading, writing and number skills,
- are making better progress since the previous inspection due to the sharper focus on improvement by leaders,
- in the Early Years, happily engage in activities and enjoy playing and exploring; they are taught well to build on their initial skills on entry,
- are well prepared for life in modern Britain because leaders ensure they have a good understanding of British values, such as democracy, tolerance, rule of law and respect for cultural diversity, and
- learn in a fully inclusive school which ensures equal opportunities and has very effective systems to support families. Ofsted recognises that children who are in the specialist unit for ASC achieve well and are fully integrated into the main school.

In addition to the above strengths, the overwhelming majority of parents and carers support the school and recognise the school's commitment to making the children's school days happy and safe.

So what next?

As mentioned in a previous school newsletter, the Governing Body has been actively pursuing conversion to Academy status, joining a Multi Academy Trust, having concluded that conversion would be a positive move for our school.

In order for the school to continue its journey of improvement, the Governing Body has agreed to become a founding school of the REACH South Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which is part of the REACH family of schools. Working together, the aim is to provide the best possible education for their children and staff. This offers us an exciting opportunity to build on our school's strengths, work with other schools to raise further our standards of attainment and for us to share our best practice.

The Governing Body will soon provide you with detailed information and an invitation to a meeting with REACH to explain the conversion to Academy status and for you to ask questions.

In the meantime, all the staff will continue to give children the best education they can and to maintain the caring and stimulating environment which makes our children feel safe, happy to be here and keen to learn. We must thank all our staff for their commitment, hard work and genuine concern for the welfare of all our pupils. We would also like to praise our children for the very positive way in which they conduct themselves.

If you have any questions about the report or our response to it, please do speak to either of us or any governor.

Yours sincerely,

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