

St Benedict's C. of E. VA Junior School

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Headteacher: Mr S. Gumm



Dream, Believe, Achieve.

Friday 17th July 2015

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

The Ofsted Report (attached) has been published today and it is my pleasure to share the key findings with you.

Firstly, the overall effectiveness of the school has been graded as requires improvement but importantly the detail in the report is largely positive about the school's current position. A key statement for me is ***'The school is very well placed to improve further.'***

Please note that there have been several changes of inspection frameworks since the last inspection and that the school's SATs results were low in 2012 and 2013 with a slight improvement in 2014 and a significant improvement in 2015. The report does acknowledge that pupils' achievement is now ***'rapidly rising'*** and a key point made in the leadership section of the report (page 4) states:

'Leadership and management are good because the determined, measured and robust leadership of the headteacher has led to rapid improvement in provision. He has built a leadership team around him that has significantly improved the effectiveness of the school. Leaders have already reversed the downward trend in standards that started after the last inspection.'

This comment strongly states that we have the leadership team (Mr Gumm, Mr Ranger, Mrs Caston and Miss Stanbury) in place to maintain our improvement, and the leadership and management of the school has been judged as good. Governors have also been praised and I would like to thank them for their supportive challenge and help that they have provided.

I am also very pleased that the report comments positively on the school's sense of community which is one of our strengths ***'Pupils enjoy the strong sense of community that is promoted at the school.'*** In fact the inspectors praised relationships and the children's conduct in our school. For example, they described behaviour and relationships shown during DASH and playtimes as ***'delightful.'***

The behaviour and safety section of the report needs a little explanation. Firstly, safety has been judged as good and behaviour as requires improvement. However, the children's conduct is good ***'Pupils are polite, well mannered and enjoy school'*** and ***'Pupils behave well during break and lunchtimes.'*** The crucial part of behaviour that pulls the grading down is the children's learning behaviour. The children can lack independence and resilience and we will be doing a lot of work to address this next year. As part of the safety judgement, children were asked about bullying and bullying was seen as rare, and the children were found to have a good understanding of what bullying is and what to do.

Teaching has also been graded as 'requires improvement' due to a lack of consistency. However, teaching is seen as improving ***'Teaching and learning are improving. The quality of some teaching is now of a very high standard.'***

Many elements of teaching are seen as positive, for example,

'Teachers match work to the different abilities of pupils effectively. This has been particularly effective in increasing the challenge of work for the more able.' We will of course continue to treat the teaching of Maths as a school priority and already have plans prepared to further improve teaching.

Finally, the achievement of pupils requires improvement, which is largely due to a judgement of achievement over time. The children were not making consistent progress until the recent improvement.

I would like to thank any parents who completed the Parent View questionnaire. If anyone would like to discuss any points made in the Ofsted report please do phone the school or catch me to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your support during the inspection, it was really appreciated by all of the staff.

Kind regards,

Steve Gumm