



Pocklington Community Junior School

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Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware our school was inspected by Ofsted, 16th and 17th March 2016, prior to this the last inspection was September 2013. The overall conclusion of the inspectors' report was that the school 'Requires Improvement'. The Governing body and the Headteacher all agree that this is the case. Whilst the school, achieves progress for pupils broadly in line with the national expectation, this we believe should and can be significantly improved.

The summary of the inspectors' findings identifies a number of areas which require improvement and this is clearly helpful in providing a focus for the Governors and the Headteacher. This said, when looking at the more detailed full report, there is a clear picture of a school going through a period of rapid change and in a positive direction.

As the inspectors' note, the new Headteacher and the restructured Governing body have instituted a considerable number of new disciplines and initiatives, many of which are starting to bear fruit.

The new Headteacher, Alex Reppold, who received a resounding endorsement from the inspectors, took up his post just short of a year ago. Notably on the day of the inspection, Nicky Morgan, the Education Secretary, announced in a White Paper that any Ofsted inspection should not take place for 30 months post the appointment of a new Headteacher. This was particularly in reference to where that appointment is to a 'requires improvement' school. This measure is undertaken to ensure that new Headteachers have full opportunity to effect change and recognises that a number of areas do need time to demonstrate change in results.

The constitution of the Governing body has changed on a number of occasions, but most significantly in July 2015 with the appointment of a new Chair and reconstituted roles and responsibilities. Again the report identifies their recent new initiatives to improve rigour in the school.

What is very pleasing is that the Inspectors found the school to be a 'good' school in the areas of personal development, behaviour and welfare. Pupils are proud of their school, feel safe and able to approach teaching staff with any concerns. Pupil behaviour is good and because they enjoy coming to school attendance is above average.

There are a number of targeted observations, the most pressing of which is identifying and implementing specific opportunities to assist more able pupils. Additionally, we have been set a challenge to identify which of the many additional programs we provide for children who require extra help, are the most effective.

In conclusion, we agree that the school needs to improve in a number of areas and that progress over the whole of the period since the last inspection has not been good enough, but that there is a very good basis on which to achieve improvement rapidly. The current Governing team and the Headteacher confidently feel that at the next inspection the school will be judged 'good'.

We encourage you to read the report in full.

Mrs J Thomson

Chair of Governors