



3rd July 2013

Re: Southway Junior School Ofsted Inspection – 11th / 12th June 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, our school was subject to an Ofsted Inspection on 11th and 12th June. We have now received the report, with the school's overall effectiveness being rated as 'Requires Improvement'. Please be assured that standards have not declined since our last report where we were rated 'Satisfactory'. The Ofsted ratings for schools have recently changed and this rating means the school is not yet a 'good' school but it is not inadequate.

Although of course we are disappointed that our school cannot yet be described as 'Good', we recognise that this is an accurate description of where we are on our improvement journey. The Ofsted team were in full agreement with our own self-evaluation across all areas and have confirmed that we understand our strengths and weaknesses. Of course this is a vital part of being equipped to move forward.

Despite a reported 'no change' in status, we should be encouraged by the progress that has been made and acknowledged by the inspection team. The report states the following positives:

- o The behaviour and safety of children at the school is rated 'Good':
 - *'Pupils behave well...and are a credit to the school'*
- o Our ethos is very positive:
 - *"a very caring and welcoming school where pupils, feel safe, valued and supported"*
- o Although teaching could not be rated as good overall, there are many examples of good teaching:
 - *"much of the teaching seen during the inspection was good"*
- o Leadership and management are addressing key priorities well:
 - *"the acting senior leadership team, together with the governors, has an accurate view of the school.....and are working hard to improve both teaching and progress"*
- o The whole school team are united in their desire to improve the school:
 - *"All staff are working well together to bring about improved progress and the school is now in a better position for when the new headteacher takes up their post"*
- o Governance is effective:
 - *"Governors provide effective support and are fully committed to making the school the best it can be"*

Whilst these are positive statements, we acknowledge there is more to do. Although children's attainment in English and maths is broadly in line with national averages, we recognise that the progress our children make, particularly in English, is a key development area for us. Rest assured we already have comprehensive plans in place to assist in improving this area going forward.

Learning and achieving together



From September 2013 we will have a new permanent headteacher, Mr Newbold, bringing further stability to the school. He will be well supported both by the local authority, who are already providing 'a high level of effective support' and also by a strong governing body and senior leadership team.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to end by thanking all parents and carers for their ongoing support of our school, and in particular, the many people who took the time to complete the Ofsted 'parent view' survey. The response to the survey was very positive - it was extremely heartening to find that 95% of parents and carers would recommend Southway to another parent.

We will soon be holding an open meeting for parents & carers where you will be welcome to come to discuss the Ofsted report or any other aspect of our school. The date and time of this meeting will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Peter Izard
Chair of Governors

Viewing the Full Report

To read the full report, please follow the link below:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/125941>

or go to the Ofsted website (<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>)
Click on 'inspection reports' and search by school name.

The report is now also on the Southway website.

For those parents / carers who do not have access to the internet, there will be paper copies of the report available in the school office. Please call in to collect a copy.

You can also view the results of the parent view survey by clicking on the link below, or searching for 'ofsted parent view Southway junior school'

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/19377/current>