



Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School
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24th January 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you to let you know that our recent OFSTED inspection report will be available on the school website from tomorrow.

Unfortunately, Ofsted has judged the school as inadequate and as a result, it has been placed in Special Measures. I know that this will not be easy to read as this is a judgement of progress the school has made over the last four years, since the last inspection.

When I wrote to you in September, when both Mr Morley Smith and I took on the stewardship of the school, it was already clear that there were a lot of areas which required immediate focus. And hence there have been a series of rapid changes we have had to put in place since September.

As I'm sure you will understand, our first priority was safeguarding the children and making sure that the correct procedures were in place. This has been recognised on the report as the inspectors have noted that we rightly prioritised this when joining the school. We have also written a very detailed School Improvement Plan which we have shared with staff and put structures in place that were missing.

Unfortunately, whilst the inspection team had full faith in us as leaders, they found a significant number of historic areas of weaknesses, judged at the time of their inspection which are identified in the detailed report. It is also unfortunate that the inspection came too quickly for the changes we had set in motion to have enough time and to settle in and there was not yet enough evidence to justify against what the inspectors found.

The Local Authority and other stakeholders, such as Oxford Diocese have been working closely with our school and we had also triggered a number of immediate changes pre-Christmas. The Governing Body has also had a change in Leadership and the Chair of Governors. Mr Morgan, the new Chair of Governors has every faith in the Leadership arrangements and team around the school to assist in its rapid improvement.

At present, we have been asked by Governors, the Diocese and the Local Authority to stay focused on ensuring the best outcomes for education of the children and hence we are happy to continue to work tirelessly to do that. Whilst the road ahead will be challenging, I have every faith in the experience and skills we bring to this school and want to assure you that we will do what is right for our children at Christ the Sower. The children at this school are delightful and frankly deserve better. Please be assured that they will now receive the best quality of education that they have had for the past few years. Teaching will be rigorously monitored and staff held to account. We can already see some green shoots of recovery. Children with SEN will be served well by our outstanding SENCO from Drayton Park, Mrs Ross.

We are proposing to hold a meeting to discuss the current plans we have in place and also to answer any questions you might have on Wednesday 13th February at 6pm. A representative from the Diocese, Local Authority and our new Chair of Governors will also be there. I look forward to seeing you then.

Kind regards

Ms. J Alikhan
Interim Executive Head

Mr R Morley-Smith
Interim Head of School