



26th November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find enclosed a copy of the Ofsted report following the inspection on 31st October/ 1st November. The inspection was carried out by four inspectors and was very thorough. The inspectors' two-day information gathering included meetings with a broad variety of members of staff. They considered evidence of the school's past and current performance. They reviewed policies and procedures, observed lessons, had discussions with pupils, looked at pupils' books, held meetings with members of the governing body and gathered feedback from parents.

The inspectors have judged the school as inadequate in all areas because the school is failing to give pupils an acceptable standard of education. This is due to long standing issues in the school. The school has been placed in special measures.

The whole school staff and the governing body, whilst disappointed at the wide ranging issues that the inspection team has identified, are determined to improve the school rapidly. Ofsted has highlighted the current leadership as a strength and recognised that we have started to address the school's problems. The new approaches we have introduced in many aspects of school life are having an impact but are at an early stage. You will see that the inspectors have highlighted deliberate and unsafe practices in the report. I can reassure you that, since the start of term, the senior team have ensured that such practices no longer take place. The report highlights many issues that have developed over time.

The report recognises, as do we, that current uncertainty around leadership in the school is not ideal. Now, more than ever, the whole community, parents/carers, pupils and staff need to pull together with the interim leadership and work towards our common goal of ensuring Harrop Fold is the best school it can possibly be. We want all our pupils to be given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

There has been speculation in the media regarding hidden agendas which is not helpful for our school community, parents, pupils and staff. I can absolutely assure you that we all want the same thing – for our pupils to be happy, safe and successful. The staff at Harrop Fold are a fantastic team. You will see from the report that the staff are described as keen, determined and hard working. With the strength of the local community supporting the school, Harrop Fold will improve rapidly.

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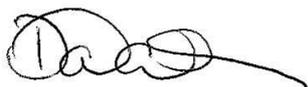
Salford South SSP



As the school has been judged as inadequate, the next step will be for the Department for Education (DfE) to identify an academy sponsor. As part of a wider group of schools, this sponsor will be able to provide the extra support needed. The DfE will make this decision over the next couple of months and it is hoped that this new partner will be known in the spring term. Greater Manchester Learning Trust (GMLT) is providing the current leadership support and the trust is committed to working alongside a new sponsor to provide stability and support. As you may be aware, it is not possible for GMLT to be the academy sponsor. GMLT will continue to provide interim support for as long as needed.

As promised, we are arranging a parents meeting to discuss the Ofsted report and to outline the priorities for improvement. This will take place at 7pm-8.15pm on Wednesday 28th November at the school. In the meantime if you have any questions please email them to harropfold.highschool@salford.gov.uk and we will try to answer as many of these as we can next week.

Yours sincerely



Damian Owen
Interim Headteacher



Cllr Kate Lewis
Chair of Governors