



# Knutsford School

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Headteacher: Eileen Anderson

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*Inspiring our children to be happy, successful learners and responsible citizens*

FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

7 June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

## OFSTED REPORT 2017

I am now in a position to share our latest Ofsted report with you following the inspection of the school on 26/27 April. A copy is enclosed and the report will be available on the school's website from 8 June.

Ofsted has graded ***Effectiveness of leadership and management***, ***Personal development, behaviour and welfare*** and ***Early years provision*** as **Good**. However, the ***Quality of teaching, learning and assessment*** and ***Outcomes for pupils*** has been graded as **requiring improvement**. Our overall assessment has been graded as **Requires Improvement**.

The Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team are very disappointed with this outcome as I am sure you will be as well. It was not in line with our own assessment of the overall effectiveness of the school or that of our independent Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, as we reported in issue 6 of our termly *Leadership Newsletter* in July last year. We knew our 2016 key stage 2 results were lower than is usual for Knutsford but, as confirmed on page 11 of the Ofsted report, they were above the government's 'floor standards' i.e. the minimum expectations the government set for pupils' attainment and progress in reading, writing and mathematics. Further details can be found in issue 7 of the *Leadership Newsletter*.

The Ofsted report rightly highlights inconsistencies in the teaching of mathematics but also points out that, as a result of the actions school leaders have already taken, the children are making better progress. Improvement in attainment and progress in mathematics throughout the school was one of the objectives of the school's improvement plan for 2016/17. This was agreed by the Governing Board last September and progress on implementation has been monitored closely throughout the year.

The Ofsted report highlights many of the school's strengths. In particular, it confirms that:

- Leaders and Governors are taking appropriate action to improve. It rightly acknowledges that the Head Teacher has identified the improvements that are required and leads with skill and resolve to achieve them. Staff performance is managed well, poor practice in leadership and teaching is addressed promptly and appropriate training and development is made available. Targets are closely linked to the school improvement plan;
- The new leadership of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is strong;
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptionally well provided for;
- The curriculum is broad and balanced with many additional trips and after school clubs to enhance pupils' experience;
- Governors perform their duties well and have a clear view of the strengths and weaknesses of the school;
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective: child protection training and policies are in place and staff know their responsibilities with regards to keeping our children safe;
- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding;
- 'Knutsford University' provides pupils with many unique and interesting activities to experience;
- There is a sense of order and calmness around the school. Pupils conduct themselves well, listening to adults' instructions and following school rules willingly;
- Pupils' attainment in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 1 remains a strength of the school since the previous inspection;
- The teaching of reading is a strength of the school. In all key stages, pupils achieve well because adults ensure that they read regularly in class and are provided with books and texts that are suitably interesting and challenging for their age;
- The proportion of children who leave Reception reaching a good level of development has been above national averages for the previous three years. Many children attain well and are prepared appropriately for Year 1;
- Leadership of the early years is good and is having a positive impact on the progress children make.

Over the next couple of months, Miss Anderson and her Senior Leadership Team will be writing the School Improvement Plan for 2017/18 and this will address all of the actions mentioned on page 2 of the report. This will be made available to you once it has been approved by the Governing Board at the beginning of the autumn term. Governors will be closely monitoring the school's progress on addressing the areas for improvement and will continue to receive regular updates from Miss Anderson on the school's progress.

However, work has already started on addressing the areas highlighted by Ofsted. During the inset day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, Miss Anderson went through the report with teachers and then spent time with individual teachers addressing issues relevant to each of them. The inset day on 6<sup>th</sup> June was already planned as a maths day. The focus was on revising the way teachers plan their maths lessons to make sure they are robust, ensuring there is provision for all children to make good progress.

Schools with a Requires Improvement judgement usually receive regular monitoring visits from Ofsted prior to their next full inspection. However, as Leadership and Management at Knutsford have been judged good there will be no monitoring visits. The inspectors were confident that we will be able to make the necessary improvements ourselves before the school's next full inspection in approximately 2-years time.

Despite this disappointing outcome, the Governing Board has every confidence that the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and members of staff will work tirelessly to address the priorities for improvement and raise standards to quickly achieve a good Ofsted rating and move towards our aspiration of achieving outstanding once again.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any aspect of the Ofsted report, please contact Miss Anderson ([admin@knutsford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@knutsford.herts.sch.uk)) or Governors ([governors@knutsford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@knutsford.herts.sch.uk)).

Yours sincerely,



**DARREN STRETTON**

**Chair of the Governing Board  
Knutsford School**