



# STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

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Re: Ofsted Inspection at Staplehurst School – 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

## OFSTED JUDGEMENT - GOOD

We are pleased to announce that we have, today, received the OFSTED report following the inspection earlier this term and it has also been posted on the school's website [www.staplehurstschool.co.uk](http://www.staplehurstschool.co.uk). I am delighted to report we have been assessed as Good in **all** categories focused on by Ofsted: Leadership and Management; Behaviour and Safety of Pupils; Quality of Teaching; Achievement of Pupils; Early Years Provision.

As you know, we shared your disappointment that the school received such a poor Ofsted Judgement in December 2013 (Serious Weaknesses) as, at that point, we felt that we were demonstrating our ability to raise standards. However the Senior Leadership Team, together with the Governing Body, has worked tirelessly to drive forward the School Improvement Plan and we are very proud that this has been recognised by Ofsted. It should not be underestimated the level of hard work and determination it takes to move up two assessment levels in Ofsted terms within a relatively short period of time.

To recap, the key focus areas since the last Ofsted judgement were:

- Improve the Quality of Teaching so that it is consistently Good (this includes consistency in Marking)
- Strengthen the Leadership and Management, in particular the role played by Middle Leaders
- Improve attainment and progress generally and, in particular, in maths and writing

The Leadership Team for the school, together with the teaching and support staff, have implemented a number of initiatives designed to address these focus areas and will continue to do so to ensure standards are maintained (and improved) going forward. We know that some of these changes have been difficult for parts of the school community to embrace but rest assured they have contributed significantly to the rapid improvement in our children's attainment and progress.

Please take time to read the report in full, the positive comments support the Ofsted judgement. There are a number of areas that we now need to focus on:

- Raise pupils' achievements by making sure that:
  - Teachers set work which is consistently challenging for the most able pupils, so that they reach the highest levels of attainment, especially in mathematics
  - Activities in the outdoor areas of Early Years are sufficiently stimulating and focused on developing children's learning



- Improve communications with parents so that they are better informed about their children's progress

We will ensure that due focus is devoted to these improvement areas as part of the School Improvement Plan. With regards to the comment on communications with parents, we are currently in the process of identifying a plan as to how this can be improved and will seek parental and staff feedback to ensure our communication strategy links to the needs of parents.

Our children deserve a first rate education and, whilst we are happy with the Ofsted judgement, it merely reflects what our children deserve and is only a stepping stone in our path to become an Outstanding school. Please be assured that we will not become complacent and will still continue to drive forward the standards for the school.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Mrs Farthing and the Senior Leadership Team and Teaching and Support Staff, as well as the rest of the Governing Body for their hard work, resilience and determination in achieving a result that the pupils at Staplehurst School deserve.

A hard copy of the report is also available from the school office for those parents/carers who are not able to access the report via the website. If you need the report in an alternative format please contact the office or the Family Liaison Officer (FLO).

Yours faithfully,



Caroline Downey  
Chair of Governors