



# STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

Acting Headteacher  
Mrs A Stevenson

Gybbon Rise, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0LZ  
Tel: 01580 891765 Fax: 01580 891291  
e-mail: [headteacher@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk)  
[office@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk)  
[www.staplehurstschool.co.uk](http://www.staplehurstschool.co.uk)

18 June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

## OFSTED INSPECTION AT STAPLEHURST SCHOOL: 9-10 MAY 2018

We have received the OFSTED report following the inspection in May and it has been posted on the school's website: [www.staplehurstschool.co.uk](http://www.staplehurstschool.co.uk). 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.

Please take time to read the report in full. Ofsted inspections examine a school's achievements over a three year period and make a judgement on a school over that time, using historical data. The outcome of the report is that the school has been judged to Require Improvement, an outcome that will come as a disappointment to many, and one we take very seriously.

We welcome the fact that it supports the indications of progress made since January under Mrs Stevenson's active leadership. *'The new acting headteacher, ably supported by other leaders, has made many positive changes. As a result, standards of achievement are improving, particularly in Year 6, and in mathematics and writing.'*

The report further notes that strengths of the school include the Early Years, pupil behaviour, a curriculum that promotes tolerance and that safeguarding procedures are effective.

The Governing Body welcomes the report in that it sets out clearly the strengths of the school and the areas the school needs to improve. The Governors, the Local Authority and staff had already identified these areas and the inspection report reinforces our conviction that we are making good progress in the right direction.

On teaching, the report notes:

*'Although improving, teaching is not yet consistently good and there is too much variability across the school. Not all teachers take suitable account of pupils' abilities and interests. Sometimes teachers' expectations are insufficiently high. Consequently, some pupils do not make strong enough progress.'*

The continuous drive for improvement has already seen strategies pursued that put in place **targeted training and resources to remedy** the inadequacies identified in the report. **Strong leadership is ensuring that all teachers know that consistently good teaching is a minimum requirement at Staplehurst School.**

Whilst the report makes difficult reading in places, on closer inspection it contains many positives; many aspects of the current teaching, although variable, are seen as improving.

In conclusion, the school welcomes a professional and evidence based assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. We are confident that the school can now continue to move forward with some rapidity to address the identified areas of weakness. We have been well supported by the Local Authority through the past few months, when the school has experienced entirely unexpected stresses, with which the entire staff have coped magnificently. We remain committed to our simple motto. Staplehurst is a school where children come first and we will continue to strive to ensure improvement in the quality of education we provide. We hope that you are reassured by this letter but, if there are any aspects of the report which you would like to discuss further, please call the office to make an appointment, giving a brief outline of what you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. G. Roome', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mr Chris Roome  
Chair of Governors