



Dormers Wells Infant School

Learning for Life

Dormers Wells Lane
Southall, Middlesex
UB1 3HX

Tel: 020 8574 6999

e-mail: dwisadmin@dwis.ealing.sch.uk

website: www.dwis.ealing.sch.uk

Date: 12/03/18

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Following the Ofsted inspection on the 16th and 17th January, the final report has now been published. The full report will be published on the Ofsted website on Wednesday 14th March but is on our website today. <http://www.dormerswellsinfants.org.uk/News/OFSTED/>

If you would like a paper copy, they will be available in the main office and they will be happy to help you.

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. Previously, the school was judged Good in September 2013. However, in this recent inspection, the school was judged overall within the category of 'Inadequate.'

As you can imagine we are extremely disappointed by the judgement as you no doubt will also be. However, we are committed to putting in place the recommendations Ofsted have made. The inspectors found many positives within the school and were satisfied that the school has started to make progress towards ensuring high quality teaching, learning and assessments for the children at DWIS.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect if the inspection for us was that Ofsted recognised the following:

- Pupils are confident, polite and courteous. They are keen to share their work.
- Pupils spoke highly of the important roles some pupils had in school. This included 'red cap' pupils who feel important because of the status this brings. 'Values ambassadors' are proud of their roles and they provide help and support to other pupils
- Parents said that safeguarding had improved since the interim headteacher had arrived.
- On occasions when teachers focus on the needs of individuals, pupils make progress
- The interim headteacher has a clear vision and detailed plans in place to move the school forward swiftly.
- The interim headteacher swiftly identified key points for development and her evaluation is accurate. She has provided some stability to the school under very challenging circumstances.

The inspection highlighted some areas in safeguarding since, my appointment, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that the welfare of pupils are paramount in the school. During the inspection procedures were not being followed robustly and therefore could potentially place children at risk. I want to assure you that these processes have been reviewed and actions have been taken. I acknowledge that there is more to be done and the school will continue to build upon this success by focusing on developing the safeguarding culture, procedures and monitoring as well as ensuring the children are learning well. Ofsted identifies, 'that the school has gone through a turbulent time.' Other factors such as a high turnover of staff since the last inspection could be a major factor preventing the school from moving swiftly to good.



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The report recognises the Interim Executive Board are aware of their role and were only in place for 1 day before the start of the inspection.

The Ofsted inspectors highlighted a number of areas of improvement that require improvement. These will make up the school's post Ofsted action plan which we will share with you.

It is obviously very disappointing for all members of the community that the outcome of the inspection has found the school has shortcomings in a number of important areas, and undoubtedly be very disappointed for you as parents. However, it must be said that all staff in the school are committed to providing the best education for the children at DWIS.

I would like to thank you for your support of DWIS to-date and your commitment to the school community and its success. At this crucial time I encourage you to play your role in supporting your children's attendance and learning, and supporting the me and the staff, as much as possible. We all know that this is a wonderful community and our children deserve the very best.

To give parents/ carers more opportunity to discuss concerns you have regarding the Ofsted report and the progress that we are already making in improving the school, we would like to invite you to an open meeting on:

Date: Wednesday 21st March

Time: 9.00am

Place: School Hall

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank the IEB and the LA for their support to date, and I am sure that with their expertise and experience, DWIS is all set to become a truly fantastic school to rival any in London.

Best wishes,

Miss Harsha Patel, Interim Headteacher

Mr Harry James, Chair of Interim Executive Board



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