LEIGH
Primary School
The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP
Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Governor Ofsted Letter to parents

Dear parents and carers,

The governing body are all hugely disappointed, as we absolutely understand you as parents will be, with Leigh Primary's recent Oftsed inspection overall judgement of 'Requires Improvement'.

We are grateful to the dedication of all of our staff in how they have kept our children safe and given them we believe the best education they could over the last 18 months, during a Covid pandemic that represents the single biggest impact on our children's academic lives to date. We are acutely aware that whilst we all work to keep its impact to a minimum, the disruption is not over. We were frustrated not to see this hard work reflected in the Ofsted judgement.

It is relevant to note that post our 2018 Ofsted Good rating, the Ofsted inspection framework changed comprehensively in September 2019 to reflect a significant change in approach to curriculum design and how the curriculum should be implemented. Under this new framework the Quality of Education of a school is assessed following the Intent, Implementation and Impact measures surrounding what knowledge and skills students are taught.

Mrs Halfhide's letter details further the reasons behind this judgement and highlights areas such as pastoral care, behaviour and safeguarding - where much focus has necessarily been in the past 18 months - where the school received a very positive Good rating. However, we must all reflect on the issues raised to move forward.

Firstly and foremost, as a diverse and passionate group of governors we have absolute confidence that Mrs Halfhide and her senior leadership team are the right people to lead this school through this challenge. Ofsted's visit came only 12 days into Mrs Halfhide's headship, and brand new senior leadership team taking up post. Our confidence is driven by the fact that building on work that commenced pre-pandemic, this team had in fact already identified a number of the curriculum challenges raised, as you can see from the comprehensive action plan already in place and elements such as a new early years/KS1 phonics and reading scheme already purchased and in action with R, Yr1 and Yr 2. SEND provision maps have been rigorously reviewed and updated for all pupils who would benefit. Training and development plans and actions for all staff and governors are underway.

Unfortunately we were unable to demonstrate enough progression at that point in time to take us beyond this RI judgement. The governing body is responsible for ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school, as well as holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils. We recognise our role in accepting this judgement in order to support the school as it moves forward.

We are committed to supporting Mrs Halfhide and the Senior Leadership Team in progressing their quality of education plans at pace e.g. supporting financial investment in new schemes, offering critical rigour around curriculum planning, and monitoring progress against milestones so we can all be confident about the quality of education at our school which we know and love so well. We welcome your suggestions about what additionally would deliver this for you as parents?

We would like to thank each and every member of staff who put heart and soul into the school every day. Irrespective of the Ofsted ruling, their strong teaching practice was commented upon as well has their nurture and passion for your children. We have full confidence that our dedicated members of staff and governors will embrace the plans that Mrs Halfhide is putting in place and that together we will grow and progress from what we firmly believe to be a good place.

At the moment is it not possible to run an event to speak to you in person due to the number of COVID cases but it is important for us to hear and answer your questions. If you have any questions please do review the letters and FAQ document attached as we may have answered your query, otherwise please email any further questions to the office using the subject line: Ofsted Query (office@leigh.kent.sch.uk). We will collate and share responses back to the wider parent body. However, as always, if there is anything you feel cannot be raised directly then do email the chair of governors rrajan@leigh.kent.sch.uk

Thank you very much in advance for your support.

Kind regards,
Rahim Rajan
Chair of the Governing Body