

CASTLESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enjoy life, learning and sharing



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26.6.18

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. Our school has recently been through a significant amount of change and restructuring which is reflected in the report. This Ofsted inspection team has judged Castleside Primary School as **Requiring Improvement**.

We are pleased that the inspection team recognised that:

- Despite significant instability in terms of staffing and governance, leaders have established a warm, welcoming and pleasant ethos.
- One parent's viewpoint epitomised the view of several: 'This is a very caring and inclusive school with a strong community feel.'
- Leaders make effective use of the primary physical education (PE) and sport funding. Pupils demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the importance of fitness and links with health and well-being.
- Pupils' skills of teamwork, resilience and endurance are being developed effectively.
- Much work with neighbours and local businesses takes place, enabling pupils to become part of their local environment and confident, valued contributors to it.
- Leaders and governors are diligent in ensuring that pupils have enriching day-to-day opportunities in terms of the wider curriculum.
- Governors have worked diligently to sharpen their understanding of successful governance by acting upon the recommendations. They are fully committed to self- improvement and sustaining their work with the school.
- Risks to pupils are minimised as records are well maintained and detailed.
- Pupils' safety is held central to adults' thinking and work.
- Pupils are confident that adults would listen and take action to address any concerns they might have.
- Several parents suggested that their children are 'excited to go to school each day'.



- Pupils thoroughly enjoy the additional responsibilities that the school affords them and their confidence and self-esteem are fostered effectively.
- Pupils' attendance and punctuality are improving due to actions taken.
- Pupils have good manners and are respectful.
- Pupils make good progress in their social, emotional and personal development in all key stages. Due to a carefully balanced curriculum, pupils are enabled to learn about careers and life beyond the school gates.
- Pupils' positive outcomes and success in terms of becoming well-rounded, polite and caring individuals are clearly evident.
- There are warm relationships throughout the early years. Parents, staff and children communicate well with one another. Parents appreciate teachers' availability and their care and kindness towards their child. One comment from a parent about the standard of care typified the views of others, saying, 'Staff put children at the heart of everything they do.'
- Adults are vigilant about children's safety and well-being.
- Children's behaviour and conduct are strengths of the early years. All children demonstrate respect for adults, responding promptly to any instructions or requests.

Areas for development are currently being addressed in the overall School Improvement Plan and through carefully developed Action Plans. The judgement reflected the school's own view of the current situation, which was identified as a strength by inspectors. We have implemented many important, necessary changes over the past two years, which have taken time to embed.

Staff and Governors are committed to improving standards and internal data already demonstrates pleasing progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for their positive contributions. Your support for the children's education is essential and was clearly reflected in the overwhelmingly positive online responses on Ofsted Parent View. Inspectors were clearly impressed with the level of engagement. They were also particularly impressed with the responses they received from the children. Their manners and welcoming approach was commented upon on a number of occasions.

Our aspirations are always for school to provide the best possible education for our children. The final report can be viewed on our school website and will shortly be available to view on Ofsted's website. If you do require a paper copy then please contact school and this can be arranged

Yours sincerely,

A.Spence

