



Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School

Royle Avenue, Glossop, Derbyshire. SK13 7RD

Chair of Governors: Mr T. Plant

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From tiny acorns, great forests grow

Governor Bulletin: Important Notice to Parents

2nd December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the recently elected Chair of Governors here at Dukes. Having been elected as a Parent Governor in May 2021, it is a huge honour to be elected as Chair and I am looking forward to working closely with the Governing Board and the School Leadership Team to continue to further drive improvements across the school. I'd also like to thank the previous chair, Peter Parkin-Child for his years of hard work and service to the school.

What has struck me most about the Governing Board and School Leadership Team over the past 18 months is their commitment and dedication to continually making improvements that improve outcomes for our children – it really is about putting children at the centre of what we do. This has not been more apparent than over the past week or so.

Notification from the Department for Education

On the 6th October 2022, the Regional Director from the Department for Education (DfE) wrote to the Governing Board informing us of the following:

- From 1st September 2022, the Secretary of State for Education (SoS) has a new power as set out in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022 that allows the DfE to intervene in schools and academies that are coasting (not making necessary improvements) and ensure that all schools with a consecutive less than Good Ofsted judgements are part of a multi-academy trust

As our school has had two consecutive 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted grades, the letter confirms that the school meets the legal definition of a school that is coasting. The letter ends that no further action is required and to expect a follow-up letter in the week of the 21st November 2022.

On the 25th November 2022, the school received a follow-up letter from the Regional Director of the DfE outlining the following:

- The DfE will consider intervening so that, where appropriate, schools can be directed to become part of a multi-academy trust (MAT)
- Before reaching a decision on the case, the DfE would like to give the school's governing body the opportunity to provide representations in response to the notification letter by the 16th December 2022.

On the 29th November 2022, an Extraordinary Governing Board meeting took place with a full and detailed discussion that focused on considering our key aim – what is best for our children. The Governors voted unanimously to make representations **against** the academy order.

Whilst we were deeply unhappy to be graded overall 'Requiring Improvement' at the last Ofsted inspection in October 2021, Ofsted did judge Leadership and Management as good. In fact, four out

of five areas were judged as good, and the inspection demonstrated many areas of improvement since the previous inspection in 2017. Since the last inspection, the Senior Leadership Team have demonstrated they have the capacity to drive the required improvements to the curriculum through delivering the School Improvement Plan. We certainly do not see ourselves as a coasting school and look forward to demonstrating the improvements made to Ofsted at our next inspection.

The Governing Board are mindful of the impact that the potential academisation will have on children, teachers and families, and we understand that this news will raise questions and perhaps concerns. Please be assured that I will keep you updated with any developments as and when we have them. With that in mind, I ask that you are mindful of the limited capacity at this time (of the governors, staff, or the Senior Leadership Team) to respond to individual questions about this.

Sincerely,

Tom Plant
Chair of Governors
Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School