



SMANNELL & ENHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
SMANNELL, ANDOVER,
SP11 6JJ



Interim Headteacher: Emma Jefferies

TEL: (01264) 323201

E-MAIL: adminoffice@smannellenham.hants.sch.uk

To love, to learn, to live...to leave a legacy

5 July 2024

Dear Parents,

You will remember that over a month ago, OfSTED undertook a full section 5 inspection of our school. The report will be published next week but I am able to send home a copy to all families today.

We are judged on 5 categories;

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management
- Early Years

A separate judgement is made on safeguarding; simply whether it's effective or not.

At Smannell & Enham, safeguarding is effective.

Whilst the school was previously rated Good in its 2018 inspection, you will know that there have been substantial changes, staff absence and movement over this period and none more so than this academic year. In 4 of the 5 areas, our judgement is 'Requires Improvement' and Behaviour and Attitudes is judged to be inadequate. This unfortunately takes our overall grade to Inadequate. The report fairly reflects the recent changes but recognises that long-standing issues have been exactly that and, whilst we are most definitely on a rapid improvement journey, change is still bedding in.

The inspection came at a time of huge change for the school and the inspection team listened carefully to your parent view comments about your child's school experience over time. They were aware of the work done to date, in this academic year, to set the school up for a thriving, vibrant future but rightly had to judge the school on its progress over the 4 years since the last inspection.

The December '23 restructure was the first and necessary action to bring the school back on track financially. An almost entirely new staff team have been appointed, inducted and met your children ready for September. As you know from my newsletters, we have completely revamped the curriculum and been trialling this since March. We have made changes to the behaviour policy and approach and will of course, continue to work on this with the support of Hampshire's excellent Primary Behaviour Support service. In addition, the Hampshire Early Years Team are working with our staff in preparation for September to strengthen our Early Years offer and we have already had staffing changes to support this.

The inspectors did recognise work done this year to improve phonics and ensure our children are good readers, which lays the foundation for future success. We restarted the phonics programme in November after training for all staff; an action the inspector agreed with and, through fastidious tracking and assessment, most children are now on track as we are over a month on from the inspection and have been determined for children to be ready for their next step in learning. Tackling low attendance has been a focus and this has also been recognised as a strength. Provision for children with SEND is positive and recognised as a strength and our work with external agencies, to achieve better outcomes for children was praised.



As you'll recognise from our actions this term and curriculum changes, we had already addressed the need to provide a better, well-rounded curriculum for children in terms of personal development and the inspection team recognised that this was in place for September and being trialled now however, there is more to do on this and Mrs McManus and I have already been discussing how the new curriculum supports this development going forwards.

About a month ago, we launched 'Project Proud' with the children and Mrs McManus will develop this in September. This directly tackles low-level behaviour and will help us drive consistency in the approach to behaviour and respect across the school. I know that Mrs McManus is already planning a fresh look at the school's values and the vision for Smannell and you will be an important part of defining these with her and the new team in September. This is almost never a job for an interim headteacher as it's important that Mrs McManus leads the school though this and together, as a new Smannell & Enham family, you find your path and set the direction for our children's future.

Under the current Government, a judgement of 'Inadequate' brings with it an 'Academy Order' which the diocese and Local Authority will support Governors in navigating. It essentially requires the school to join an academy group however, with elections this week and the education policy of any new Government as yet unknown, we will address this issue in good time and when new policies are clearer.

Despite this disappointing judgement, I know that we could not have worked harder to ensure we have set the school up for a bright future in the last few months and it has been a privilege to lead the current team, exciting to set up the new one and a joy to get to know your children. I have spoken to many of you over the last 8 months and I know that the recent past has been challenging. The Governors and I recognise the report as a fair reflection of the school's journey over the last 4 years and look forward to a brighter future – we are already on the journey there.

Kind regards,



Emma Jefferies
Interim Headteacher

