



Flourish

FEDERATION

Believe, Achieve, Belong



20th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware North Elmham school had an Ofsted inspection on the 17th and 18th of January and the report has now been published, a copy is enclosed with this letter.

North Elmham school has been through a turbulent time in the past few years and this was recognised in the report with the following statements:

“Since 2019, significant changes in leadership and teaching staff slowed the rate of improvement in the school. New leaders since September 2022 have brought stability in leadership and have driven forward improvement at a rapid pace. Staff and parents are confident in the new leadership team. They appreciate the positive changes leaders have made.”

“Governors have supported the school well through difficult times. They know the strengths of the school and where improvements must be made.”

These statements are very important as we have been able to prove to Ofsted that we now have the leadership in place to make the improvements that are needed.

The inspection report defines areas where improvement is required, and the areas Ofsted highlighted were already in the School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP). The inspection noted that improvement is being driven forward at a rapid rate however there has not been sufficient time since September for all the improvements to become embedded and we know we still have work to do.

Our SIDP has 6 aims for the current academic year.

Aims 1 & 2. These are about improving the quality of education. Whilst there have been significant improvements since September we still require further improvement in this area and inspection findings were inline with our own assessment of where we are.

Aim 3 was to secure a senior leadership team that can drive the improvements forward at the school. With the appointment of Ms McConnell on a permanent basis and with the support of Mrs Jeary and Mrs Otty we believe this has been achieved.

Aim 4 is about making sure pupils have a strong voice in the school. Our children are being encouraged to share their ideas and raise any issues for consideration. We have made progress with this and the report mentions areas where this is now happening.

Aim 5 is to increase attendance and reduce the number of exclusions. Since September there has been a much sharper focus on attendance and the school is working with families to support them where needed. Behaviour has significantly improved in the school since September which has had an impact on reducing the number of suspensions and there have not been any exclusions this academic year.

Aim 6 is to develop a vision for our Early Years provision. This is currently work in progress and as such the inspection did identify areas for improvement.

The overall rating of the school remains as “Requires Improvement”.

Having read the report and reflected on the inspection Governors and the Senior Leadership team see it as recognition that there have been significant improvements made since September 2022 and confirmation that the areas we continue to work on to improve are the right ones for the school. Leadership and management is now rated as “Good” which recognises we have the capacity to drive forward with the improvements needed.

Ms McConnell and all of the staff and Governors at North Elmham school are making every effort to ensure that the school is a place where children can fulfil their full potential, be fully prepared for when they move onto the next stage of their education and one the community can be proud of. We know we still have more work to do, but I can assure you we are taking all advice and support open to us to ensure we make the improvements as quickly as possible.

The opening sentences of the report state, *“Pupils like coming to school. It is friendly and welcoming.”* This is very important to us as we make every effort to ensure the school is a place where children feel safe and can thrive.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and the report. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact myself at chairofgov@flourishfed.co.uk or Ms McConnell via the school office.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Plant', written in a cursive style.

Robert Plant
Chair of Governors