

THE SEVA SCHOOL Press Statement:

Date: Tuesday 22 November 2016

On behalf of: Tarsem Singh, Chair of Strategic Management, The Seva School

STATEMENT

The governors and senior leaders at the Seva School are hugely disappointed with the recently published Ofsted report, believing it fails to recognise the good practice at the school or to clearly acknowledge the positive work the new leadership team are putting in place.

Just ten days into the new school year, Ofsted visited the school and reviewed all aspects of its operation and concluded that, although the school has clear strengths, certain areas were graded inadequate, which means that the school has been put into special measures.

The report reflects positively on teaching and learning and pupils' behaviour. The inspectors found that the curriculum was broad and balanced, clearly reflecting British values, that there were numerous instances of well-pitched teaching, with no weak teaching observed and pupils were attentive and engaged and results are good. Given these findings it is, therefore, hard to reconcile the poor grades that have been awarded following the visit. Unfortunately, this seems to be a reflection on certain conflicts and differences of opinion between particular members of staff which had an adverse effect on the operational running of the school and impacted on grades awarded. Prior to the Ofsted visit, positive changes were already being made to address this.

The summer period saw several fundamental changes in the way the school is run, which included changes in the leadership model, including the appointment of new separate Primary and Secondary Heads, giving improved accountability and performance, at both levels. Processes have also been reviewed, including safeguarding and a number of clear short, medium and long term goals have been identified. Following a Governor Review, two new Governors have also been appointed and will soon be in place, one of whom is a former Ofsted Inspector and one has primary leadership and SENCO experience; they will bring a broader expertise to the Governing Body. As a result, a number of the areas for improvement raised by Ofsted have already been addressed. Owing to the early autumn visit, these changes were not yet fully embedded within the school culture and operational practices at the time and were therefore not recognised by the visiting inspectors.

Maureen Martin, Chair of Governors said: 'Whilst being disappointed, we are also determined to act on any recommendations and work together, with all staff, to implement better processes and make all improvements recommended. Our vision is clear. This school exists to give all our pupils the opportunity to experience excellent teaching and learning and to achieve great results in a faith designated and ethos school environment, in line with our founding core principles. Our focus is reflected in our published results, which are generally above the national average and well above the average for Coventry. We want to raise aspirations for all our pupils, irrespective of background or ability and to continue to build a strong and trusted partnership between pupils, school staff, parents and volunteers.'

ENDS

**Seva School, Link House, Eden Road, Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry, CV2 2TB
Tel: 024 7798 7619**