



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Parents and Carers,

**A message from the leadership team about the outcome of the recent OFSTED inspection**

Thank you for your support during the OFSTED inspection of our school on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. The lead inspector commented on the positive responses received from parents and described the children as delightful, respectful, friendly and polite.

We are now able to share with you the findings of the inspection. You will find a summary of the headlines in the table below but we would really encourage you to read the full report to see the many positive things which the inspectors saw in our school.

We would like to remind you that the criteria for the inspection judgements has changed significantly since the last inspection in 2012. Pupil outcomes (test results) are now a limiting judgement, which means they impact directly on the judgements for Quality of Teaching, Leadership and, by implication, the Overall Effectiveness judgement for the school. As we have already shared with you in our newsletters, we are very aware that our 2016 results were not good enough, but this was also true for 47% of schools across the country because of the new test standards. The inspectors could see we are on the right track for school improvement and debated long and hard about whether there was enough evidence yet that recent changes were having enough impact. Their decision in the end was that there is not enough consistency in the evidence to be securely good **yet**.

Areas of inspection	OFSTED rating	What the report says
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Requires Improvement	<b><i>'The senior leadership team, governors and dedicated staff have determinedly made many changes that are improving the school'</i></b>
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Requires Improvement	<b><i>'The teaching of English and mathematics is improving, particularly for the most-able pupils, but this is not consistent across the school.'</i></b>
Behaviour	Good	<b><i>'The school's caring culture is ever-present. Pupils are considerate and thoughtful towards others.'</i></b>
Personal development and welfare	Good	<b><i>'The school's values are used well by staff to encourage pupils to celebrate their achievements, raise aspirations and increase pupils' respect for each other. As a result, the school is a happy, friendly place.'</i></b>
Pupil Outcomes	Requires Improvement	<b><i>'Outcomes for pupils are improving.'</i></b>
Early Years	Good	<b><i>'Staff have high expectations for what children can achieve, and challenge them effectively to develop early skills in literacy and numeracy. Imaginative teaching, including in phonics, enables children to improve their ability to read and write words and sentences rapidly'</i></b>
<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>		<b>Requires Improvement</b>



Headteacher: Lesley McKay  
Deputy Head: Catherine Phillips  
Associate Deputy: Caroline Dabill  
Assistant Head: Amanda Hyde



The inspectors recognised the significant impact on the school's development of having a temporary leadership team for a long period in 2015 (during the Headteacher's and the Deputy's unavoidable absences). The team also recognised the journey we have been on since then, to rapidly improve outcomes, noting school leaders have identified '**clear and accurate priorities for improvement**'. We have not been asked to undergo any formal external reviews as a result of the inspection, which is an endorsement of the inspectors' faith in the plans we already have and their confidence in us to achieve them.

We believe, despite any OFSTED labels, that Moor Allerton Hall is a far better school than it was 5 years ago. The positivity of staff, the increasing achievement of all pupils and the overwhelming support and encouragement of parents and carers over that time has shown us this is true. You just have to look at our latest newsletter to see the great reputation our school is getting in the city. We will continue to work in partnership with parents and carers to build on that positive reputation.

We are not complacent about the challenges we face, but we are positive about the future of our school. We were, and are, confident in our capacity to address the issues facing us as a school. We have already made a great impact on our writing results across school and are in the process of doing the same with reading this year. We have a very effective relationship with our School Improvement Advisor, Jackie Reid, and together we will continue to be rigorous in achieving our development plan. We have the support of the Local Authority leadership to achieve this, Andrew Eastwood's message to us was this:

***'We continue to work closely with the leadership team and governors at Moor Allerton Hall and we share the assessment of the inspectors when they recognised the dedication and determination of the staff to make this a great school. We have every confidence that the school is on a strong, positive trajectory and we will continue to support the leadership as they drive up standards.'***  
**Andrew Eastwood; Head of Learning Improvement – Leeds City Council**

If there are any questions or comments you want to make about the OFSTED report, Ms McKay will be holding a 'drop in' session for all (new and existing) parents and carers on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 3-4pm**. Come into school via the front entrance at any point during that time to join the informal discussion. Alternatively, you can email us at [office@moorallertonhall.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:office@moorallertonhall.leeds.sch.uk) We always welcome your views and we want to help you with any concerns you have.

Finally, a note to our new parents and carers whose children will be starting in September this year. We hope that you will be encouraged in the fact that our Early Years provision (which includes Reception) was considered to be securely good by the inspectors. You will also know from the open days that we are already working on improvements further up school. If you have questions about the inspection, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will also be available to help on each of the visit days arranged for new children over this term.

Yours faithfully

**The Senior Leadership Team:** Lesley McKay, Catherine Phillips, Caroline Dabill and Amanda Hyde

**The Governing Body:** Pat Heron, Joanne Greenhalgh, Reuben Moore, Catherine Mitchell, Fiona Hardy, Danielle Richardson, Tom Venning, Mahmud El-Badri, Hannah Corne and Jenny Perry