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25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

You will see the outcome of the Ofsted inspection, from February, on the enclosed report.

We have challenged and disputed this outcome because we firmly believe that it does not reflect the educational experience children receive at Surfleet Primary School. Many of you will be aware of the changes that have been implemented at the school in recent years. We now have a stable team of teaching staff who care deeply about the education and welfare of all children in school. We have calm and purposeful learning environments. Routines have been established and children know the behavioural and learning expectations in school. We have built positive and constructive relationships with our families; partnerships that can only impact positively on children's school experience.

The start of the current school year brought about changes in the way Ofsted inspects schools. Along with all primary schools, Surfleet adapted its curriculum to meet the new Ofsted framework. Ofsted also stated at the start of the year that, for schools inspected this year, there would be recognition of the journey that schools are on with their curriculum. We feel very strongly that this has not been the case. We have a clear curriculum in place that provides breadth and depth of learning.

In terms of pupil outcomes, it must be recognised that just one or two pupils makes a huge difference to small schools' data outcomes. Two pupils at the end of 2019 missed their expected outcomes by just one mark. This resulted in percentage data dropping by one fifth. In a larger school, the impact of these two pupils would have been insignificant.

Along with many school leaders, I believe Ofsted has adopted a secondary school lens through which to judge primary schools. The overarching vision for greater account of the breadth and balance of the curriculum is welcomed. However, the approach to the inspection in small schools is in question with little account taken of the demands placed on so few staff to lead all the subjects in the curriculum.

*Working collaboratively with Pinchbeck East CofE and Spalding Primary Schools*



Despite our challenges to Ofsted, the outcome, unfortunately, stands. Please be assured that we have a very clear plan of action, which we have been working on throughout the lockdown period.

- A clear Reading and Writing curriculum are in place.
- Phonics training, originally scheduled for March, is in place.
- A carefully planned Early Years curriculum is in place.
- An electronic system for recording safeguarding concerns is in place.

The inspection report implies that none of the above was in place. All schools, regardless of Ofsted label, are on a continual journey of development. Surfleet is no different but we feel that our journey has simply not been recognised or acknowledged.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Raistrick  
Executive Headteacher

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