

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre T 0300 123 1231
Maple View Text Phone: 0161 6188524 **Direct T** 01695 566857
Skelmersdale enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk **Direct F** 01695 729320
WN8 9TG www.ofsted.gov.uk **Direct email:** jkinsman@cfbt.com

23 May 2013

Mrs L Edwards
Headteacher
Buglawton Hall School
Buxton Road
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 3PQ

Dear Mrs Edwards

Special measures monitoring inspection of Buglawton Hall School

Following my visit to your school on 22 May 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in February 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and the head of care, the Chair of the Governing Body, a headteacher commissioned by the local authority to support leadership and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection in February, three staff have left and two have been appointed, including a new teacher for science.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Leaders and managers have begun to collect evidence from a wide range of activities aimed at resolving each of the issues identified by the recent inspection. Evidence consists of a range of documentation, including new policies, lesson observations, evaluations and records of training and of staff appraisals. These demonstrate good organisation and a clear commitment to improving consistency of practice within education and care.

Improvement activities are led by a number of staff, indicating increased delegation by senior staff and recognition that improved leadership is required at all levels. Senior leaders report management meetings of increased effectiveness. Senior leaders show keen appreciation of the extent of the challenges faced by the school. As well as resolving the inspection issues in detail, their actions are aimed at improving the ethos of the school, changing the culture that has developed and restoring the confidence of staff in the school's leadership.

The newly formed governing body for Manchester Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) schools has formed a committee with specific oversight and strategic responsibility for Buglawton Hall School. To date, the governing body has not been able to recruit parent or community governors to broaden the membership of the committee. However, it is actively trying to do so. The strategic committee is reported as more active and engaged than the oversight arrangements in existence at the time the school's decline.

The local authority has put in place all the support it promised to allocate to the school, including those whose role is to work with leaders and managers and those whose function is to hold school leaders and the committee to account. Work has begun in earnest with the clear aim of building the capacity within the leadership team. Early reports on teaching and safeguarding have been commissioned and these are about to be considered by the strategic committee of governors.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's action plans are fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Strategic Director Children's Services for Manchester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Brian Padgett
Her Majesty's Inspector