

CfBT Inspection Services

Suite 22

West Lancs Investment Centre T 0300 123 1231

Maple View

Skelmersdale

WN8 9TG

Text Phone: 0161 618 8524 **Direct T** 01695 566932

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk **Direct F** 01695 729320

www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct email: hcarnall@cfbt.com

4 June 2015

Mrs Lynn James
Principal
Ormesby School
Tothill Avenue
Netherfields
Middlesbrough
TS3 0RH

Dear Mrs James

Special measures monitoring inspection of Ormesby School

Following my visit to your academy on 3 June 2015, 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 academy's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the academy became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in March 2015.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the Principal, a senior leader, a representative of Ormesby School Academy Trust and a representative of Outwood Grange Academies Trust. The inspector had discussions with the Chair of the Governing Body and Ormesby's School Improvement Partner. The inspector also visited lessons in all year groups. The academy's statement of action and improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection, 14 teachers, including four middle leaders and two senior leaders, have left the academy. Seven new teachers have joined the academy, five of whom are middle leaders. The governing body has passed a resolution to join Outwood Grange Academies Trust. The academy is due to open as Outwood Academy Ormesby on 1 September 2015.

The quality of leadership and management at the academy

The Principal and senior leaders are taking swift action to improve the quality of education at Ormesby School. The curriculum has been radically reorganised and new systems to support planning, teaching and assessment have been implemented.

The Principal is providing a strong and determined drive for improvement. She has quickly made much-needed changes to the academy's curriculum and staffing structure. Both are now more fit for purpose as they are more closely matched to students' needs, interests and abilities. These changes, alongside the changes to lesson planning and work to develop teachers' practice, are already having an impact on the quality of teaching. New systems for managing students' behaviour and improving their attitudes to learning have been implemented. The academy is already a calmer and more orderly place than was the case at the time of the section 5 inspection.

The academy's improvement plan is sharply focused on the actions needed to improve the quality of education at Ormesby School. Although the actions are sensibly sequenced and the plan includes measurable step-by-step targets for improvement, it does not always specify how and when progress towards these targets will be monitored and reviewed. Strengthening these aspects of the plan is necessary to ensure that the Principal and senior leaders have accurate and reliable information to judge how their actions are having an impact on the quality of education.

Governors have acted quickly and decisively to secure the support needed to bring about rapid and sustained improvement. A small group of governors are now working well with senior leaders and the School Improvement Partner. The partnership with Outwood Grange Academies Trust is adding urgency and capacity to the academy's drive for improvement. The transitional arrangements for joining the trust are a strong feature of the academy's statement of action. Although the academy's statement of action was not submitted within the required timescale, it is fit for purpose.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The academy's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The academy's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

Having considered all of the evidence I strongly recommend that the academy does not seek to appoint newly qualified teachers.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Executive Director for Well-Being, Care and Learning for Middlesbrough. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Nick Whittaker
Her Majesty's Inspector