

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

4 March 2014

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

**PERFORMANCE REPORT ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOLS CAUSING
CONCERN**

1 September 2013 – 31 December 2013

1 Purpose of Report

To report on the performance of Local Authority (LA) schools causing concern to the Local Authority (LA) in the period 1 September 2013 to 31 December 2013.

2 Context

- Schools are identified as causing concern to the LA where difficulties are persistent and beyond the capacity of the school to resolve without significant additional support, challenge or intervention from the LA.
- Schools are judged by Ofsted to require significant improvement or to require special measures if their provision is judged inadequate in any of the key areas of achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and quality of leadership and management.
- Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework on 1st September 2012. As such, those schools in Derbyshire LA which have been inspected since that time have been inspected under the new Ofsted framework. The new framework places increased emphasis on the direct observation of teaching and learning. The framework has been revised further in September 2013 with a greater focus on the progress pupils make relative to their starting points
- Schools Causing Concern are supported through agreed LA action plans which are communicated to governing bodies and, in the case of those in Ofsted categories, to HMI. The local authority convenes a School Progress Review Team in all cases to lead intervention, support and monitor the rate of improvement and to ensure the prompt removal of causes of concern.

3 Information and Analysis

Schools Causing Concern

As at 31st December 2013, 24 schools were causing concern to the LA and were supported through intensive programmes of intervention and support led by the LA Advisory Service. Of these schools, eleven are in the Ofsted categories.

Schools Requiring Significant Improvement:

- Since September 2012, schools judged to require significant improvement are deemed to have Serious Weaknesses. It is expected that schools will be removed from these categories within twelve months.
- Two schools are judged as having Serious Weaknesses; one more than in the last reporting period: Aldercar Community Language College and Dunston Primary.
- Aldercar Community Language College was inspected in February 2013 and judged as having Serious Weaknesses. The school has had a second monitoring visit by HMI in November 2013 and has been judged as making reasonable progress towards removal of the designation. The report comments that the local authority is providing very good support for the school in terms of support from the link adviser, teaching, learning and assessment consultants as well as enhancing the governing body with four additional governors.
- Dunston Primary was inspected in November 2013 and judged as having Serious Weaknesses. A school improvement plan and the local authority statement of action are in place and the school awaits a monitoring visit by HMI.

Schools Requiring Special Measures:

- Nine LA schools are judged to require Special Measures; three more than in the last reporting period: Springfield Junior School, Newbold CE Primary School, Newbold Community School, The Pingle School, St.Giles C of E (Aided) Primary School, Castle View Primary, Alfreton Grange Arts College, Howitt Primary School and Chapel-en-le-Frith CE VC Primary School. Two schools, St. Laurence CE Aided Primary and Newtown Primary have been inspected during this period and removed from requiring Special Measures.
- Springfield Junior School was inspected in November 2012 and judged to require Special Measures. The school has been subject to a third monitoring visit by HMI in October 2013 and judged to be making reasonable progress towards the removal of special measures. The report recognises that the link adviser's work has had a major impact on reforming the governing body and that the teaching, learning and assessment consultants have continued to

provide very useful, practical support to the school, working alongside school leaders and coaching teachers.

- Newbold CE Primary School was inspected in April 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in September 2013 and both the school's improvement plan and the local authority's statement of action were judged as fit for purpose.
- Newbold Community School was inspected in May 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in September 2013 and neither the school's improvement plan nor the local authority's statement of action was judged as fit for purpose. Recommendations made on how to improve these have now been followed. The Secretary of State has installed an Interim Executive Board (IEB).
- The Pingle School was inspected in May 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in September 2013 and neither the school's improvement plan nor the local authority's statement of action was judged as fit for purpose. Recommendations made on how to improve these have now been followed. The local authority has installed an IEB.
- St.Giles C of E (Aided) Primary School was inspected in June 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in October 2013 and both the school's improvement plan and the local authority's statement of action were judged as fit for purpose.
- Castle View Primary was inspected in July 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in November 2013 and both the school's improvement plan and the local authority's statement of action were judged as fit for purpose.
- Alferton Grange Arts College was inspected in September 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in December 2013 and both the school's improvement plan and the local authority's statement of action were judged as fit for purpose.
- Howitt Primary School was inspected in October 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was monitored by HMI in December 2013 and both the school's improvement plan and the local authority's statement of action were judged as fit for purpose.
- Chapel-en-le-Frith CE VC Primary School was inspected in October 2013. A school improvement plan and the local authority statement of action are in place and the school awaits a monitoring visit by HMI.

In addition to the LA schools that are subject to Ofsted categories, Heanor Gate Science College (an academy) was inspected in September 2013 and judged by Ofsted to require Special Measures. Since the last reporting period, Ormiston Ilkeston and Ormiston Enterprise academies which were both judged to require Special measures have merged to become Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy and have been removed from requiring Special Measures.

- **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity and environmental, financial, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

4 Key Decision

No.

5 Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

No.

6 Background Papers

None.

7 Strategic Director's Recommendations

To note the performance of schools causing concern.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

APPENDIX 1

LA Schools Causing Concern by phase December 2013							
Category	Phase						
	Nursery	Infant	Junior	Primary	Special/ Support Centres	Secondary	TOTAL
Causing concern to the LA	0	0	4(3)	5(12)	0(1)	4(5)	13(21)
Requiring significant improvement	0	0	0	1(0)	0	1(1)	2(1)
Special Measures	0	0	1(1)	5(3)	(0)	3(2)	9(6)
TOTALS	0	0	5(4)	11(15)	(0)	8(8)	24(28)

Previous report figures in brackets