



19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for the outcome of our recent Ofsted Inspection. This was due to the holidays falling within the allowed timescale and as Ofsted only counts working days, this delayed the outcome by two weeks.

We can now inform you with regret that the Ofsted Inspection assessed our school as still requiring improvement.

This is clearly very disappointing and was not expected. We have worked tirelessly since our last Inspection to rapidly improve the quality of teaching and learning as well as other aspects of school life and feel the outcome does not reflect the position of our school.

Our understanding of our schools improvement has also been validated by external partners who have also assessed the school as good with many outstanding features. We were also visited by the Department for Education in May who were very pleased with the schools progress and recommended an early Ofsted Inspection based on their findings of a good school. Their report is confidential but we can share some of the comments that they made.

“Harden Primary Academy has developed an exciting learning environment; the curriculum model meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, reflecting the needs and interests of pupils. The two new AHTs plus the creation of a TLR for maths, has led to a greater capacity for rapid improvement. Teaching is enthusiastic and rigorous in many classes and there is an increasing level of expertise evident in the school’s SLT in monitoring, scrutinising, identifying and pro-actively addressing issues.”

“Outcomes of assessment are used effectively to inform teaching and learning which is well-structured to meet the needs of all pupils in core subjects and in topic teaching, providing appropriate challenge and addressing gaps in attainment and understanding.”

“There is a relentless focus on the teaching of core literacy and maths skills, reinforced in every class via age appropriate and enhanced provision for more able pupils.”

“The robust approach to improved quality of teaching and learning is underpinning pupils’ improved progress, their attainment and the increased depth of their learning.”

“In the pupil interviews the children spoke enthusiastically about enjoying school life and their learning especially maths, and said they knew when to ask for help.”

“All tasks are devised to stretch and challenge and this was particularly evident in foundation stage, key stage one and key stage 2. The headteacher is aspirational in her vision for both progress and achievement and end of Key Stage 1 and 2 outcomes are now above the national average in all areas, as well as the phonics screening test.”



“Book scrutiny revealed consistency of teaching approaches across the school, consolidation of skills and rigour in marking. Children could talk about their own improvement, and teachers expectations of what can be achieved have clearly risen in the last two years.”

Based on our view plus those of the external partners, we do not agree with Ofsted and have therefore taken the necessary steps to submit a complaint and appeal the decision.

Whilst the complaint is investigated and an independent reviewing officer assesses the validity of our claims, the original report will be published on the Ofsted website and available from Friday 23rd June 2017.

We would like to offer parents the opportunity to come and discuss the report and its impact with the Headteacher, Senior Leaders and Governors. We recognise that it can be difficult to attend meetings so would like to have a ‘drop in’ rather than formal meetings.

We are available to meet on Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 8.30am - 9.30pm, 2.00pm – 3.30pm and again at 4.30pm – 7.30pm.

We hope we can address any concerns that you may have. However, if you are unavailable on Tuesday please do not hesitate to contact school and arrange a suitable time.

It is worth noting there are also a number of judgements within the report which show areas classified by Ofsted as “good”. These include good progress across early years, clear evidence of leadership, governance and safeguarding. In addition the report highlights improvements to the quality of teaching and successful approaches to cross curricular activities including physical education, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Please find the full report on our website by following this link  
<http://harden.bradford.sch.uk/about-us/ofsted-report/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hutchinson  
Headteacher

Mrs Sue Bottomley  
Chair of Governors



**HARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Long Lane  
Harden  
Bingley  
West Yorkshire  
BD16 1LJ

**Tel:** 01535 273847 **Fax:** 01535 272616 **e-Mail:** [office@hardenbradfordsch.uk](mailto:office@hardenbradfordsch.uk) **Web:** [www.hardenbradfordsch.uk](http://www.hardenbradfordsch.uk) **Head:** Mrs Kirsty Hutchinson

