



**BALAAAM WOOD SCHOOL**  
*inspire, succeed, achieve*

12 July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Ofsted Inspection Report May 2018**

As you know, the school underwent an Ofsted Inspection on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018. I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to thank all those who submitted such positive comments in relation to the work of the school during the Inspection. As always, your support is much appreciated.

Our Ofsted report is now available online and you will also find a copy on our school website. If you would like us to provide you with a paper copy, please contact the school reception and we will organise for this to be posted to you.

The Governing Body, Staff and I are clearly disappointed with the final judgement and overall outcomes of the Inspection. We are still in contact with Ofsted in relation to the Inspection process. However, we are pleased that the Inspectors identified many positive aspects of our school, which I would like to share with you in this letter.

We are aware that there is still much to do as we continue to improve our school and are particularly delighted that the Inspection team clearly identified that the current Leadership Team have the capacity to move the school forward:

*"The Headteacher and his senior team, all of whom are relatively new to their posts, have an accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They have produced a strategic plan with challenging targets and clear milestones. Leaders have now started to accurately chart progress against these targets. These developments are relatively recent and indicate that current leaders have the capacity to bring about further improvement."*

I would like to reassure you that we will continue to work tirelessly over the coming year.

I was also pleased that the school's focus on the safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils was recognised. Ofsted found that our arrangements for safeguarding are effective and stated that "pupils feel safe" at Balaam Wood School. Some further observations made on the quality of our safeguarding procedures in school are noted below:

*"[Pupils] can explain, in detail, how the school is a place of safety." "Leaders and staff have created a strong culture of safeguarding and are very committed to the wellbeing of pupils."*

*"The school has worked hard to promote the welfare of pupils. Each week there is a Wellbeing Wednesday, when the school offers a number of activities for pupils to choose from [...] these activities help pupils achieve more in school."*

*"The school is an inclusive community, where people are valued. Pupils told Inspectors the school treats pupils equally and there is no place in the community for prejudice or discrimination."*

I am immensely proud of the maturity and the passion with which our pupils spoke of the school which was also picked up by Inspectors in the report: *"the majority of pupils are proud of their school."*

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Headteacher: Mr D McGarvey



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The areas that Ofsted have asked us to focus on had already been identified by the school prior to the inspection and developments around these areas are continually ongoing. Following the publication of the Inspection, we will be producing a School Improvement Plan which we will share with you in September 2018 to highlight the work being undertaken.

Inspectors have asked the school to continue improving teaching and learning. I am delighted to confirm that key appointments of Teaching Staff for September 2018 have already been made. We will also be communicating with you in the near future about the launch of the Balaam Wood Quality Mark as an approach to ensuring that all lessons are at least 'good,' are planned to meet the needs of all of our pupils and support them in making accelerated rates of progress.

Inspectors have also challenged us to improve levels of attendance. This is one aspect of school improvement that we cannot do without your support. I would remind you that our basic expectation is that every pupil will have at least 95% attendance. There is a clear link between attendance and pupil outcomes. Please support us by ensuring that your child is in school every day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support with guidance in relation to attendance.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

The full report can be found at the following address:

**<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/103529>**

If you would like to meet with myself to discuss any aspect of the report, please contact Miss Wills, PA to Senior Leadership Team on 0121 464 9901 or you can contact via email on [ofsted@bwschool.org.uk](mailto:ofsted@bwschool.org.uk).

I continue to remain dedicated and determined to ensure that Balaam Wood School provides the very best education for your child. I am proud to be the Headteacher of this school and I am proud to serve this community. As we move forward, your support for your child and the school is essential. I hope that we can rely on you to work with us to continue to ensure the success of your child's future.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr D McGarvey**  
Headteacher

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