

8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear parents and carers

Ofsted inspectors visited Almondbury Community School in early December to carry out an inspection. Their report has now been completed and we are able to share the outcome.

The inspection highlighted strengths within the school. These included pupils being polite and respectful; and the vast majority of pupils saying they feel happy and safe at school, which was a view supported by the majority of parents. It also points out that our work with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities has been recognised by a national award. The inspectors' have judged that pupils' development, behaviour and welfare requires improvement in order to be good.

At the same time, Ofsted have raised a number of concerns about aspects of the school's performance and standards. They say school leaders have not taken urgent enough action to bring about improvements or to ensure safeguarding is effective; governors have not done enough to check the quality of safeguarding or challenge leaders on standards of teaching and learning; and pupils have not made enough progress at the end of each Key Stage, with the Key Stage 1 curriculum too limited. Unfortunately, this means they have given the school an overall judgement of 'inadequate'.

We are all very disappointed with this outcome and we recognise that more and rapid work is needed to make the improvements needed across the school. It is important to stress that many of the issues raised by Ofsted had already been identified and strong action was already being taken to address them. In some cases, as the report makes clear, the inspectors could see these changes. However, the changes were recently implemented and it was too early for their full impact to be seen.

The measures taken include a review of safeguarding procedures and further development of preventative approaches to behaviour management. These actions have already had a positive impact on several of the concerns raised in the report.

As a result of the current situation, the school's governing body has now stepped down so that a new board of governors is able to take the school forward in future. An 'Interim Executive Board' (IEB) has been appointed by the Local Authority and consists of people who are experienced in leading school improvement work. The IEB members are taking up their positions with immediate effect and I am very proud to be chairing this group. My background is in working with schools and wider children's services and I have led governing bodies elsewhere. We will bring you more details soon about the IEB members but, in the meantime, many thanks to the previous governors for their hard work and dedication, especially during what has been a very challenging time for the school.

The school is also working very closely with Mr Simon Flowers, the executive principal of Carr Manor Community School, Leeds - an all-through school rated by Ofsted as good with outstanding features. Mr Flowers is adding extra support to our leadership team and this is excellent news for ACS because he has supported a number of schools in the region and has helped them make rapid progress.

We truly value the role of ACS in the local community and I can assure you that the school's commitment to achieving high standards of care and education has never been stronger. A tremendous amount of

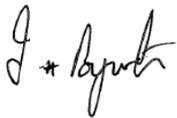
Growing together – Achieving together

hard work is already taking place across the whole school and we are fully focused on increasing the pace of change for the benefit of current and future pupils.

We will, of course, keep you up to date as the situation develops.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



John Bywater  
Chair - Interim Executive Board