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Dear Parent/Carers of St. Joseph's Primary School,

I wanted to write to you to outline the Local Authority's view of St. Joseph's and comment on the recent Ofsted Inspection. I understand that you will be disappointed with the inspection judgements, but the local authority fully supports Dr. Lane and the work he is doing with his team to bring about improvements. Please rest assured that we are working together to ensure the future success of the school.

St. Joseph's was made a School Causing Concern by the Local Authority in July 2013 following the Infant School's Requiring Improvement judgement in their Ofsted Inspection. This enabled the school to receive more regular support and closer monitoring. The downward trend in results over the last few years has been of great concern, as have the inconsistencies in teaching and learning. We supported the school with the recruitment process for a new headteacher and, when this was not successful, supported the decision of the governors to appoint an interim Executive Headteacher. We have every confidence in Dr. Lane and it is pleasing to see that the Ofsted Inspection Team also recognised the rapid improvements that have been made under his leadership.

It is clearly disappointing that the overall judgement was Requiring Improvement but parents must understand that the current inspection framework is the most challenging it has ever been. There have been many changes of framework since the old junior school achieved Outstanding in 2009 and the infant school was judged to be Requiring Improvement in 2013. The bar is raised with the release of every new framework that is produced by Ofsted. The Local Authority, Governors and school leaders are in agreement with Ofsted that the school is still Requiring Improvement, based on the current framework, but we all have no doubt that the school is moving rapidly in the right direction and that standards will now move upwards.

St. Joseph's is becoming an exciting place to learn and to work in again due to the "motivational" leadership of Dr. Lane and his team. It was pleasing to see that Ofsted recognised that the pupils "enjoy coming to school." I hope that you continue to support Dr. Lane, his staff team and the governing body on their rapid improvement journey.

Yours sincerely



Neil Marlow