

Parents Forum held at 5pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

40 parents attended the Forum to discuss the recent Ofsted Inspection Report.

Tim Marston, Headteacher explained the process of the inspection to parents. He highlighted the areas where the school needed to improve and addressed each of these areas.

Mr Marston told parents that he believed in the Ofsted process and if Ofsted said that the school needed to do better, then that is what they needed to do.

Mr Marston explained that the comments in the report relating to safeguarding came predominantly from 2 complex cases that the inspectors looked at.

The issues raised highlighted a lack of consistency and formality in the recording of incidents and an 'over reliance' on the external services linked to the school. He gave the example of where school had referred an issue to social care (and subsequently challenged that advice) but despite escalation to the management layer of social care, taken their advice, advice that when looking into the specific of the case, the inspectors disagreed with.

The recording of safeguarding issues on the online management system had also been criticised. This had immediately been reviewed by the school and the protocols for recording incidents has been reviewed.

The processes for students that were under Alternative Provision were also criticised. Students who attended Alternative Provision are unable to remain in main stream school for a variety of reasons (usually instead of a permanent exclusion).

One of the providers of Alternative Provision used by the school was the Melton & South Charnwood Behaviour Partnership (MSCIP) which was based on The Roundhill Academy site.

Mr Marston was the Chair of MSCIP, the staff there are employed by the Trust.

However, Ofsted did not feel that the school checks on the attendance of students in the Alternative Provision (AP) were robust enough and relied too much on the staff in AP to let them know the attendance. There was also criticism that the students in AP did not receive as well rounded an education as the students in the main school.

If safeguarding is deemed ineffective then a school will be deemed to be inadequate – this was the case for this inspection and therefore the overall judgment becomes inadequate – Safeguarding sits under leadership and management which is why that grading sits as a 4 - Inadequate.

SEND was highlighted as an area to improve however the Inspectors could see that the newly appointed SENDCo was making progress and required time to make the necessary improvements but that these were underway. SEND was highlighted by the school prior to the inspection as an area of development for this year and the inspectors agreed.

Ofsted also referenced that some students raised the use of derogatory language and that some students did not feel that this was challenged by staff. Mr Marston explained that inspectors has spoken to two different groups of students and this had been their feedback.

He explained that if even one or two students give this feedback Ofsted are obligated to comment on this in the report.

Mr Marston explained that there were 8 areas where the school needed to improve. He explained that some actions had been immediately taken.

The Trust had instructed Mr Marston to step down as Chair of MSCIP and to give notice of the school coming out of that partnership.

Additional capacity was added to the Senior Leadership Team.

Safeguarding roles were reviewed and reorganised to increase capacity.

Changes to the recording systems have been made and the Local Authority had carried out their own review earlier in the week and had given positive feedback about the changes made.

Mr Marston, opened the floor for parents to ask questions:

A parent asked how the school had gone from good to inadequate and who was responsible. Mr Marston said he took responsibility for the judgement and would work hard to move the school back to good.

Parents raised their concern that their children reported to them that racist and derogatory comments were not challenged by staff in school. They said that staff should be setting a good example, if comments went unchallenged this gave the wrong message to students that it was acceptable.

A parent asked why other staff were not present at the meeting. Mr Marston responded that he had made the decision that it would be the CEO for Bradgate education Partnership Trust and himself that met with parents.

Parents asked why the Trust felt that a split headteacher worked and whether this was all money saving. Mr Nelmes shared the rationale for a joint leadership approach and pointed to the results in both schools which have improved significantly at both schools.

Parents acknowledged the mistakes made with paperwork but asked who was monitoring this. Mr Marston explained that this is monitored by a range of people internally and externally but that responsibility sat with him.

A parent commented that if staff didn't want to listen to students then they shouldn't be working in school. There should be zero tolerance on derogatory language and racist comments.

Another parent asked about the comments made on teaching & learning and teachers checking students understanding. Mr Marston explained that this related to the retrieval exercises that students did at the start of the lesson.

Ofsted witnessed some students who chose to sit back and wait for the feedback to be given instead of having a go at questions that were more challenging.

Parents raised concerns at the references to assessments not being checked and returned to students quickly enough. They also commented on the lack of extracurricular activities offered by the school. Mr Marston took the comments on board. The impact that the pandemic had had on extracurricular activities was discussed but examples of sports, performing arts and other activities were also shared.

Another parent commented on the points system and what they were for. They commented on the lack of rewards and trips to motivate students and have something to work towards.

A parent raised concern as to why tutor time only happened once every two weeks and how having regular contact with your tutor could prevent a lot of other issues escalating. Mr Marston confirmed that from September the tutor time would be reinstated every day and that this was already planned in line with the push for 32.5 hour provision.

Lunchtime arrangements were also discussed and the lack of time given to each meeting at Parents' Evening and the lack of impact that this had on students.

Some parents reflected back to Mr Marston his speech from the Open Evening and how disappointed they now were. Mr Marston accepted this but also pointed to the significant improvement in outcomes at both schools and the fact that Roundhill had delivered its first set of results with a positive progress 8 score.

Mr Marston reiterated that the responsibility for the judgements made by Ofsted stood with him and that he would work hard to rectify this. He anticipated that the school would receive another inspection in the next few months and a further full inspection possibly six months later. He commented that it would be useful to meet with parents regularly to share the progress that the school were making and following discussion monthly meetings were agreed.

Parents were actively invited to join the governing body and a date for the next parent forum was agreed.