

## SHEEN MOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE OFSTED REPORT - JUNE 2022

#### **All about the Ofsted report and rating**

##### **Why has Sheen Mount been rated 'Good' and not 'Outstanding' by the Ofsted inspectors?**

To achieve 'outstanding' under the new inspection framework the school must achieve 'outstanding' in every area of the framework. Whilst Sheen Mount achieved 'outstanding' in Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development, the inspectors identified one area for development – the sequencing and progression of some of the wider subject areas beyond the core subjects of maths, English and science. As a result all the other areas were assessed as 'good' but not 'outstanding' in the framework leading to an overall rating of 'good'.

##### **Does the school and Governing Board agree that this is a fair judgement or are we planning to appeal?**

Both the school and Board believe that the overall rating of 'good' with the identification of two outstanding areas is a fair and accurate reflection of where the school is today under the new inspection framework. We will not be appealing.

##### **Was this outcome expected? If so, what were the school and Governing Board doing to address this prior to the inspection?**

To help our inspection preparations under this new Ofsted framework, the school held a mock inspection led by the Borough in July last year - postponed from March 2020 when we went into lockdown. This was a very useful process. Since then, the school has been working on planning, sequencing and delivering the curriculum across all subjects, in line with many schools and reflecting the requirements of the new framework. Consequently the overall findings of the inspectors were not unexpected.

##### **Why were we inspected now?**

Ofsted announced that from September 2021 all schools rated outstanding under the old framework and previously exempt from regular inspections for a period of six years would be re-inspected as a priority, starting with those which had not been inspected for the longest period of time. Our last inspection was in July 2007 and the timing was therefore not unexpected.

##### **Why is Early Years only rated 'Good'?**

The area of development highlighted in the report around the wider subject areas and the sequencing of the curriculum equally applied to Early Years and so it is for this reason that Early Years also received a 'good' rating.

##### **What aspects of Leadership and Management were not outstanding? Was this rated 'good' because we had a change of headteacher recently?**

The inspectors were complimentary about the leadership across the school and the 'seamless transition' that had been achieved despite the term gap between headteachers being in position. They identified no areas for development in Leadership and Management. The rating of 'good'

reflects the fact that the inspection framework dictates that when Quality of Education is rated 'good', Leadership and Management **cannot** be rated any higher than 'good'.

**Was it in any way a reflection of our schooling during Covid or any resulting catch up required?**

No. This was not an area of concern or discussion with the inspectors.

**What will the school do to address the issues identified by Ofsted and when should the parents expect these to be completed? Once progress has been made, does that mean that the school will be rated "outstanding" at that point?**

The school was already working on the sequencing and progression of the curriculum across all subject areas and this work will continue as a priority. Progress has already been made this term and there will be a continued focus throughout the next twelve months and beyond. The development and monitoring of the curriculum and teaching is always, as you would expect, an area of ongoing review and focus for us as a school.

The school will not receive another inspection for around four years based on Ofsted's current review cycle.

**Implications of the Ofsted report and rating**

**Does this Ofsted rating mean my child has not been receiving the best education?**

Not at all. Ofsted has rated the school 'good' across all areas and outstanding in many. We will continue to provide every child with the best education possible at all times.

**Does the Ofsted rating imply that my child will find it harder to get into secondary schools?**

The children at Sheen Mount have always been very successful at getting into the secondary schools of their choice and this year is no exception. We will publish these statistics in the autumn as we do each year. The school's academic results are in the top few hundred primary schools in the country and we expect this to continue.

**Will the new rating affect the morale of the teaching and non-teaching staff at the school?**

No. The staff were aware of the challenges of the new Ofsted framework and look forward to continuing to do their very best for the children in terms of their education and personal development.

**Will the new rating affect the ability of the school to raise the financial resources it needs, and is there a risk of entering a vicious cycle where things will get worse before they get better?**

The amount of money the school receives is based on the number of pupils on roll each year. We continue to remain oversubscribed for entry into our reception classes. In line with other schools across the borough, we have seen a slight drop-off in pupil numbers higher in the school following Covid. We continue to work hard to attract new pupils to fill these places.

**Should I transfer my child to an outstanding school in the borough?**

Sheen Mount is an outstanding school in many areas as evidenced by the Ofsted inspection and our academic results. The fact that the school did not achieve an overall rating of outstanding does not

detract from all the school delivers for our children. The children will continue to receive an excellent education at Sheen Mount.

### **How can the parents help? if we donate money to the PSA can we solve the problem?**

With school finances being squeezed, any monies raised for the school will always be put to good use. We work hard with the PSA to identify the best way to spend any money raised for the benefit of the children.

### **The Ofsted framework**

#### **What is the new Ofsted framework and how is this different to the previous one?**

The new framework judges on the four areas at the top of the report and then provides an overall judgement. Wording and areas of previous framework have been adapted and changed e.g. 'quality of teaching, 'learning and assessment' has changed to 'Quality of Education'. Additionally, there was a whole section previously on 'outcomes of children and learners'. Much of this referred to school academic data such as KS1/KS2 SATs and the Year 1 phonics.

#### **Why is it now harder to achieve an 'Outstanding' rating?**

The new Ofsted inspection framework is a far more exacting judgement than the previous approach with the need to meet 64 criteria to be 'good' and even more in each area to be 'outstanding'.

Amanda Spielman the Ofsted Chief Inspector has been clear that she expects the number of 'outstanding' schools to halve through the new inspection framework – moving from one in five to one in ten schools. Here is an article outlining her thoughts:

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/spielman-1-in-10-outstanding-schools-more-realistic/>

#### **Does Sheen Mount's move from 'Good' to 'Outstanding' reflect Ofsted's ambition to reduce the number of schools with an 'Outstanding' rating?**

The fact that it is far more challenging to achieve the 'outstanding' rating now aligns with Ofsted's ambition. The one main area identified in the report which was rated good – curriculum sequencing – will be an area of focus for us and many other schools who have been inspected under the new framework. Leaders, teachers and governors look forward to the challenge of maintaining the high standard of education at Sheen Mount and further developing curriculum sequencing.