

Select Committee on Children's Services – 24 March 2010

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report on Dudley Schools OfSTED outcomes April 2009 – March 2010

Purpose of Report

1. To present the latest analysis on the performance of Dudley schools in OfSTED inspections

Background

2. During the period April 2009 – March 2010 OfSTED inspections have undergone significant changes in the framework and criteria used to inspect school performance. Throughout this period schools have been inspected in one of three frameworks:
 - a. The old framework that ceased in July 2009
 - b. A pilot framework used between April – July 2009
 - c. The revised framework September 2010 onwards.
3. Consequently, drawing valid and robust comparisons of performance needs to be undertaken with caution. For example, the revised framework has “raised the bar” (HMI quote) in expectations of school performance. This raising of the bar is most noticeable in the introduction of “limiting judgements”. Schools whose performance is graded satisfactory or inadequate for pupil achievement or safeguarding will have a reduced overall effectiveness judgement. The importance of safeguarding is such that any school judged to be inadequate for safeguarding will automatically be placed in a “Notice to Improve” or “Special Measures” category.
4. The report presented here provides the committee with the outcomes for all schools inspected in Dudley through this period. The committee is asked to note that the report does not include short thematic or subject inspections, nor the

outcomes of HMI monitoring reports for those schools who have been judged to require a “Notice to Improve” or “Special Measures”.

5. Table 1 below analyses the inspection grades for the fourteen Dudley primary schools inspected in this period. The grades are set against four of the key inspection areas that are deemed to have a significant impact on the progress of the school since the last inspection.
6. Table 2 provides the most recent OfSTED data available for all schools nationally against which Dudley’s performance can be benchmarked.

Table 1

Primary School Inspection Judgements

Inspection Grades		Overall %	Capacity to improve %	Achievement %	Leadership and Management %
Outstanding	1	0	1 7.1	0	0
Good	2	6 42.8	5 35.7	6 42.8	6 42.8
Adequate	3	6 42.8	7 50.0	6 42.8	7 50.0
Inadequate	4	2 14.2	1 7.1	2 14.2	1 7.1
		14	14	14	14

Table 2

Overall effectiveness of schools inspected between September 2007 and July 2008

	Overall effectiveness judgement (percentage of schools)			
Type of school	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Nursery schools	39	58	3	0
Primary schools	13	50	33	4
Secondary schools	17	40	34	9
Sixth forms	18	43	37	2
Special schools	26	54	18	2
Pupil referral units	7	55	30	7
All schools	15	49	32	5

7. Analysis of performance provides the evidence for a key priority within the Children and Young People's Plan namely, to improve the percentage of schools attaining good or outstanding judgements in primary schools. Evidence from all the key issues of school inspections are used to inform Children's services support activities and to target those schools in need of additional support. Highlighted below is a summary of the priorities for primary schools as reflected in the inspection reports.

a. Leadership and management

- Improve the capacity of governors to monitor and evaluate the work of the school
- Improve strategic planning and self evaluation and for all senior leaders to follow up the outcomes of monitoring activities

b. Teaching and Learning

- Teachers should analyse the progress of children data to ensure planning matches learning to their needs
- Improve the quality of teacher assessment in lessons and ensure all children are given guidance on how to improve.

8. Analysis of table 1 indicates that one school was judged to require "Special Measures" and one was judged to require a "Notice to Improve". The Special Measure school has since received HMI monitoring visits. The latest report judged the school to be making satisfactory progress against all the key issues. The local authority has also monitored both schools and judged progress to be satisfactory.

9. Secondary Schools.

At the time of writing this report only two schools have been inspected and their reports made public. One school was judged to require "Special Measures" and one to require a "Notice to Improve". The school in "Special Measures" is being supported by the local authority and the Black Country Challenge. At present the Council has published a statutory notice to close the school on 31 August 2010. The local authority are monitoring the progress of the school with a "Notice to Improve" and it will shortly be subject to a formal local authority monitoring visit.

10. Special Schools and pupil Referral Units

Only one special school has been inspected in this period and it received good judgements across the key criteria referenced in the primary table 1.

11. Dudley has the raising of attainment at all key stages as a priority within both the Children and Young People's plan and in the Directorate Strategic Plan.

Finance

12. The work supporting School OFSTED inspections is funded from within existing Directorate resources.

Law

13. The statutory provisions relating to OFSTED inspections are contained in the The Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Equality Impact

14. This report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that the Select Committee note this report.



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List of Background Papers