



# Carlton in Snaith Community Primary School

Townend Avenue, Carlton, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 9NR

Head Teacher — Mr Jon Watson

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*Developing Lively, Inquiring and Creative Minds*

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents,

We are now able to share with you and the wider community feedback from Ofsted following their recent inspection of school. We have received the final version of the report and it is now available on our school website from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and will be on the Ofsted website from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### Overall:

Within the process and the report there is lots to be pleased with and proud of, and as expected, there are also areas for us to continue to work on. I am confident that we know our school well and know the direction we need to continue to move.

- Our current inspection status is now **'Requires Improvement'**.
- Importantly for your information, safeguarding (e.g. keeping the children in our care safe) was again judged as being **'effective'**.
- Governors, Staff and I believe we are overall a **Good and Improving School**.
- I think for Carlton our **R.I.** status truly stands for **'Rapidly Improving'**

#### Headlines of the report & what has been said:

##### Ofsted said:

- Parents said that they are **'overwhelmingly supportive of the school'** They value the opportunities their children receive and the approachability of staff.
- Those parents who responded to the Ofsted parental questionnaire, Parent View, and those who spoke to inspectors say that their **children feel happy and safe**.
- 'The Head Teacher **cares deeply about the pupils** and is ambitious for the future. He has managed a period of considerable turbulence resolutely' and a 'new deputy Head Teacher and business manager were appointed respectively to bring **greater stability to senior leadership'**
- Governors are **skilled professionals**.... And offer **appropriate levels of support and challenge** to leaders.
- **'Pupils say that they are happy in school** and demonstrate a secure understanding of how to stay safe, including when using the internet.'
- Pupils demonstrate **positive attitudes to their learning** and are keen to talk about their learning.
- 'Leaders have **responded positively** to the areas for improvement left at the monitoring inspection in June 2018'.
- **'pupil's overall attainment at the end of KS2 has improved over time'**
- 'the curriculum is **broad and balanced** with a range of enriching experiences and a clear, **exciting intent to develop pupil skills'**.
- Pupils are **nurtured and encouraged to love reading**. Pupils' **outcomes in reading improved markedly in 2018, at both the expected and higher standard**.

- Daily access to the community library, which is located in the school grounds, supports a **love of reading** further.
- ‘Superheroes’ values (Carlton Skill set) are used as effective reminders to pupils of the characteristics needed to be **successful learners**, for example courage, determination and resilience. A weekly session is used to celebrate those pupils who have demonstrated these characteristics in their learning. This contributes to **nurturing pupils’ self-confidence** and supports pupils’ growing awareness of how to show respect and tolerance of others.
- Pupils say that they **feel safe and have great faith that leaders will sort out any issues that may arise.**
- **Pupils talk animatedly about their regular opportunities to learn outdoors.** This is used to reinforce the important skills of cooperation, and personal safety.
- **Children’s behaviour is good.** This is because all staff set high expectations for children to share and to turn take. **Staff model by example and they quickly establish strong and trusting relationships with children.** This creates an enabling environment in which all **children appear happy and safe.**

Staff fully believe that ‘We are a much **better school** than we were at the time of last inspection’ and ‘the staff **wholeheartedly appreciate the vision and direction...**provided (by leaders) and are **unanimous in their view that the school is improving**”

#### What next?

It is clear we have work to do, but we knew that before the Ofsted visit. We will continue to make the necessary decisions and actions to make further improvements. Whilst we are disappointed with the judgments themselves, much of the narrative within the report was highlighted by leaders and governors in advance of the inspection (within our Self Evaluation), and lots of strategic work has already begun to address the issues raised before the inspection and will obviously continue. We know our strengths and know the areas in which we want to develop further. We are doing the right things but need longer to show their impact!

I continue to be extremely proud to be head teacher of Carlton in Snaith CPS and look forward to leading our school forward and to greater success. I often say to staff and governors that we do what we do every day for the children in our school, and not for anybody else. I know we also have a reflective and positive nature and are always looking to improve. We will continue to do our very best every day – our children deserve it!

#### Context

Ofsted last conducted a section 5 inspection in July 2014. Under a very different Ofsted Framework, Carlton in Snaith CPS was then judged as being ‘Good’.

In June 2018, we had a ‘short/section8 inspection which lasted for one day. The HMI identified that there was ‘no change to the school’s current overall effectiveness grade of good’. However, despite the fact that this inspection team stated “**Leaders have responded positively to the areas for improvement left at the monitoring inspection in June 2018**” our current inspection status is now ‘Requires Improvement’. The HMI described this decision as ‘cuspy’, meaning on the cusp or/and borderline, therefore not as simple as the end judgements actually look.

We are disappointed that in June 2018, we were informed that we were likely to be inspected again within 12-24 months. The reality of timing meant that we had 9 months (including the summer holiday) before being re-inspected. We strongly believe that given a little more time we would have been able to **confidently evidence the impact of actions taken** and further demonstrate greater progress on our collective journey.

We trust you know our school. The HMI did say to me that one parent actually said to her on the gate ‘we don’t care what you say, we all know how good our school is”. However, I am hurting, frustrated and highly disappointed by the report as a whole, but also determined, resilient and confident that, with your continued support, and our continued focus, dedication and efforts we will get through this disappointing ‘judgement’ and continue to develop and improve. I want to reassure you that we are the same school as we were last week, or last month. This is the school that 106 parents responded to Ofsted’s parent view about and were ‘**overwhelmingly supportive of the school**’.

The governors and I are extremely frustrated with the timing of this inspection and the negative/non-celebratory tone of the report. We have requested that our concerns about these issues be reviewed.

Links:

If you would like to read the report in full, this link will take you to the report:

<http://www.carlton-in-snaith.n-yorks.sch.uk/school-information/ofsted-reports/>

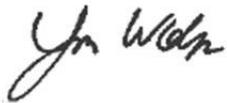
Thanks:

I once again would like to thank everyone who contributed over the inspection period for their time and efforts, whether speaking to the Inspectors or completing the Parent View or Pupil survey.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

I am extremely grateful for the hard working staff team and the extremely supportive and passionate Governing Body.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Watson', written in a cursive style.

Jon Watson  
Headteacher