

15th November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Response to Ofsted Inspection Report and Action Plan

Quorn Hall School was inspected between 3rd–5th October 2023. We welcome such visits by Ofsted and other regulators and were particularly pleased to see the report illustrate the positive relationships and care that the staff have for our pupils, the strong effective safeguarding policy and practice, and the proprietors' and leaders' sustained investment and development of the curriculum and enrichment facilities. The report does also highlight areas where we can improve and we take this feedback seriously. We are committed to addressing these areas of improvement to ensure that we provide the best possible education for our pupils.

1. Reading Programme: We have worked very hard to drive a love of reading and indeed a wide approach to early readers of all ages and need, in a population who could be resistant to reading. This work and the implementation of a library in school were praised by the inspector, however they felt that some areas of the strategy required more work. They felt that some of the strategies introduced were not reaching those most avoidant of reading and that further strategies should be considered. We fully accept that this will be a perpetual area for review and are committed to driving a policy of reading throughout the school.

2. Curriculum Development: Since acquiring Quorn Hall School, the proprietors have invested heavily in curriculum, learning spaces and specialist teaching and therapy spaces. The leadership team in turn have worked hard and have dramatically broadened the curriculum offer to all pupils, including successful level two academic programmes leading to the pupils at Quorn Hall having access to, and achieving GCSE qualifications. Through this period of significant improvement in curriculum and academic offer, the inspector identified that there were some areas where sequencing of curriculum, and the delivery, particularly in small areas delivered by non-subject specialists, requires more attention. We are committed to planning and sequencing the curriculum precisely in every subject, starting from the primary phase, to ensure pupils build on their previous knowledge effectively.

3. Teacher Training: We acknowledge the importance of staff possessing a secure knowledge of the subjects they teach. We will invest in additional training and support to ensure that all staff have the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the curriculum effectively and adapt it to meet pupils' needs.

4. Behaviour Management: Quorn Hall School is a highly specialist school for children who are often described as having SEMH. This title alone does not describe the vast and varied presentation or reason for the behaviour presented within the school. Every child's behaviour must be considered through the lens of their current life experience, historic trauma, current traumatic events being experienced, neuro-diversity and cognitive processing, and communication abilities. This does mean that every child, and every incident of behaviour must be carefully and professionally considered. The inspector identified that there were areas where due to this complexity, and particularly in areas where staff turnover occurred, there were improvements required to ensure consistency, and universal support for staff understanding. We understand that there is a need for consistent expectations and support in managing pupils' behaviour. We will review our training strategy and relationships policy to provide staff with the confidence and skills required to help pupils learn how to identify and implement self-regulation strategies so they can manage their own behaviour effectively.

5. Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Understanding: We acknowledge the report's observations regarding the promotion of pupils' understanding of different cultures and religions. This specifically relates to cultural visits. We will ensure that pupils have ample opportunities to develop an understanding of and respect for those of different faiths and cultures.

6. Staff Stability: We recognise that the frequent staff changes have sometimes delayed or hindered planned improvements. This is a national issue in education, and it is particularly challenging to recruit and retain experienced staff within special schools that support pupils with complex social, emotional and mental health difficulties. We will continue to work closely with proprietors and recruiters to review our recruitment and retention strategies. In this way we aim to ensure a stable body of staff with the necessary resources and knowledge to fulfil their roles effectively.

7. Meeting Independent School Standards: We will work with the proprietors to ensure that all standards are consistently met in the future, and that aspects of the curriculum are of consistently good quality and implemented effectively.

We are fully committed to implementing these changes and improvements as swiftly as possible to address the issues raised by the Ofsted Inspection Report. Our ultimate goal is to provide the highest quality education and a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for our pupils. The action plan that scaffolds these changes is currently being finalised – it will be shared with the Department for Education and all local authorities that we work with in order to collaboratively work together to support our pupils.

We value your input and support in this journey. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We will keep you updated on our progress, and we are confident that with your support, we can continue to improve our school.

An inspection provides a window into the school for just a couple of days, yet our staff work incredibly hard all year round, going above and beyond, to ensure that our pupils have the best opportunities and experiences available to them. I am in no doubt that, when we are visited again by Ofsted, we will evidence the embedded practice and meet all standards and recommendations set.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Thorsteinsson
Executive Principal



Antonia Jackson
Headteacher