

13 February 2020

Update on the Jane Lane Special School

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe - Education and Skills

1. Aim

Update on the Jane Lane Special School, currently in Special Measures

2. Recommendations

Agree to continue with the high level of support and challenge to the school leadership and governance, in regards to standards and improvement and financial management.

3. Report detail – know

Jane Lane School is one of 7 Schools in Walsall that provide special education for children and young people with complex needs. Ofsted conducted a full inspection of the school on 27th and 28th November 2018. The school was deemed Inadequate and placed into Special Measures.

Since the Ofsted judgement, the school has been subject to two Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) monitoring visits. Both visits confirmed that the Interim leadership, Interim Executive Board (IEB) and the Local Authority were taking effective action to remove the school from Special Measures.

The most recent HMI monitoring report highlighted the following:

- Leaders have a clear rationale for the curriculum and that the balanced curriculum prepares pupils well for the next stage in their education.
- The quality of teaching and learning shows signs of improvement.
- Safeguarding is a strength of the school. Leaders are embedding a culture of safeguarding. Training for staff considers the vulnerability of the pupils at the school. Links with external agencies are effective. The school is calm and orderly. Pupils say that they feel safe and they have someone they trust to talk to. Medical plans and intimate care plans for pupils who need them are in place. Additional training has been given to staff when needed.
- Leaders have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. The IEB continues to offer leaders effective support in securing school improvement. Governors work collaboratively with leaders.
- Parents and carers are becoming increasingly involved in the life of the school. Representatives from the parents' forum regularly meet with the deputy head teacher and there is a newly formed parent teacher association.

As a Local Authority we will be having monthly 'Team Around the School' (TAS) meetings (see appendix 1) to monitor the improvements against the identified areas for improvement within the latest monitoring report.

The school improvement associate will continue to work alongside the interim senior leaders at the school to ensure the robust and measureable action plans have agreed milestones and that the leadership can evidence progress against the plan.

There will be a key focus on staffing, teaching and learning standards and finance within the monitoring leading up to the next HMI visit.

4. *Financial information*

The work being undertaken to improve the school has caused financial pressure on its delegated budget. The authority has provided additional resource to support the school to understand the impact of this over the next three years and identify options to manage this, with a Licenced Deficit agreement now in place with the school which aims to bring the schools financial position back in to balance within this period (as required by schools financial regulations).

The financial position for the school will continue to be regularly monitored over this period to ensure it is in line with the projection approved within the Licenced Deficit agreement, and additional options will need to be identified by the school if this monitoring highlights any variances.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

NA

6. *Decide*

Members to decide on any future updates required

7. *Respond*

NA

8. *Review*

The Jane Lane School is subject to inspection and is a priority school in the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) protocol. The activity will be reviewed monthly in the TAS.

Background papers

Author

Trudy Pyatt
Interim Head of Inclusion
☎ 655616
✉ trudy.pyatt@walsall.gov.uk