

SALTERSGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT TO GOVERNORS



JUNE 2015

INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that I compile my report to the Governing Body of Saltersgate Junior School. I am particularly proud of our recent Ofsted Grading of Outstanding in all areas. As you are aware, we have all been working towards this outcome for a considerable time. The report confirms the vision of all stakeholders and recognises the passion and drive of all involved. Governance was highly commended and a testament to the governors challenge and support for the school.

PUPILS

Number on Roll

The updated numbers on roll in May 2015 is 366.

Saltersgate remains extremely popular; we have almost weekly requests for places.

Attendance and Behaviour

Behaviour throughout school is excellent; pupils cooperate, work well together and show high levels of engagement in lessons and all areas of school life. The Ofsted Inspection confirms this:

- The behaviour of pupils is outstanding.
- Pupils' attitudes to learning are never less than exemplary. They thrive on the challenges of lessons and always strive to succeed. The quality of the work they do in books, and that displayed around the school, clearly exemplifies the pride pupils take in what they do.
- Behaviour around the school is excellent. Pupils move sensibly around corridors, always mindful of others. Their table manners in the dining hall are a credit to them and they know how to adjust their behaviour properly for assemblies. Relationships in the playground, where the 'friendship stop' is hardly ever needed, make playtimes happy and safe.
- Pupils make a huge contribution to the everyday life and atmosphere around the school. They are invariably polite and extremely well-mannered. There is always a friendly greeting. They are worthy

ambassadors for their school in the way that they arrive smartly dressed in uniforms, and attend regularly.

Attendance Update

Our attendance target is 96% and 4% absence.

Group Analysis by Attendance Category

Period: 01/09/2014 to 21/05/2015

Pupils DOB Range: 01/09/1998 - 31/08/2009

Scope: Whole School

Number of Sessions

Group	Presents	AEA	Authorise d Absences	Unauthorise d Absences	Possible	% Attend
Whole School	107500	1497	3494	407	112898	96.5
Totals	107500	1497	3494	407	112898	96.5

AEA= ANY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

We are pleased that we are also above the target of 96%

Staffing

The leadership team are planning for the year ahead. Everyone continues to work extremely hard and we are looking forward to further embedding the New Curriculum (introduced September 2014). Year Leaders and Curriculum Leaders have done a brilliant job forging ahead with the new guidance. Colleagues work well together and teams are very strong and well established.

Chris Stratton continues to support Years 5 and 6 as part of our Pupil Premium Strategy, children in this group have made accelerated progress. We were also lucky enough to recruit Laura Worthington (a former Saltersgate pupil). Laura joined us after Christmas; this enabled us to provide a fourth group in Year 5 for morning sessions. Laura has also taught focussed, personalised intervention sessions for Year 5 and 6 children during the afternoons. I am delighted that progress and learner engagement has increased for the children involved.

We have recruited an NQT, Tom Brown, for September. Following an amazing Teaching Practice, the SLT were keen to recruit Tom. He was consistently outstanding during his time at Saltersgate and will be a great asset to our team. Ashley Barnes (NQT this year) has been successful in securing a post at Doncaster Museum and Jayne Parkes has also gained a teaching post elsewhere.

After a successful application and interview, Owen Lord will begin his teacher training with us in September. I am pleased that we are part of the Doncaster Initial Teacher Training Programme, as it gives staff opportunities to mentor trainees and also helps ITT students to receive high quality training.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my committed team for their dedication and determination to do their best for our children at all times. Everyone was highly commended by Ofsted:

- The highest expectations and rigorous challenge are hallmarks of the outstanding teaching seen throughout the school. They lead to pupils' rapid learning and excellent overall achievement.
- Teachers' continuous focus on their own professional development and its impact on their teaching have a direct influence on pupils' attitudes so they, too, are inspired always to do their best.
- Teachers value pupils' ideas and the contribution they make to lessons. This boosts pupils' confidence. It makes pupils more excited about their learning and more eager to 'have a go'.
- Learning is supported exceptionally well by resourceful planning and preparation. Precisely matched work is checked on continuously by adults in the classroom so that rapid progress is a matter of course.

SATS

As always, the Year 6 team have worked extremely hard to enable the children to reach their individual targets in SATS. Katy McKie is doing an excellent job of leading the year group and teaching to the highest standards.

For two days of the Easter holidays, over half of the Y6 pupils attended Literacy and Numeracy booster sessions to help them to prepare for their forthcoming SATs tests. There was an extremely positive reaction to these sessions as pupils were able to work with their teachers on concepts that they had previously been struggling with.

School Visits

A meeting was held in April and Educational Visits have been organised and passed by the committee for the period of April 2015 to July 2016. The annual year 6 visit is taking place in France again. We have a busy visits and visitor timetable, throughout the year, in order to enhance experiences for our children.

Year 3 have recently taken part in a very informative trip to Austerfield Outdoor Study Centre. The sun shone all day which added to the enjoyment and the pupils' interest in rocks and soils was stimulated to engage them on the start of their new topic 'Flow' - a study of rivers, rocks and soil. Pupils

were given three activities which took place in different locations around the centre.



Indoors, they had a 'hands on' experience of examining rocks and discovering how they were formed. A range of investigations took place allowing the children to understand why the properties of rocks make them suitable for people to use in everyday life.



Outside, with safety in mind, the pupils prepared for a visit to the quarry where they discovered sandstone and its uses to the building industry.



The children examined the soil in one area and compared it with soil from another area. They discussed how soil was formed and why it changes from place to place.

Year 3 will be visiting Austerfield again in June to study rivers more closely and all the pupils are looking forward to an exciting day of study again.

Miss Miller has settled into her permanent role in year three and is proving to be a valuable asset to the school. She runs the Caring for Pets club and assists with many other clubs throughout school. She also assisted Mrs Smith in organising a productive discussion group created from the feeder schools during a meeting which was held at Ridgewood School, to share experiences about the New Curriculum, with very positive outcomes.

School Council

Miss Boyd has achieved some excellent outcomes to the work she has done with the School Council. The fruit bar is a regularly used service for the pupils and the council members run it extremely well. Regular meetings are held and the main focus has been on the anti-bullying campaign. The anti-bullying ambassadors are set to receive the Diana award for their roles in the campaign. Miss Boyd also assists with other clubs in different year groups and runs the school choir, taking them to the Young Voices performance each year.

Curriculum

As a school, we organised the introduction of the new curriculum carefully in order to ensure a smooth transition. Staff were well informed about the changes to the curriculum and were eager to trial and implement the new cornerstones topics.

Ofsted praised the curriculum:

Pupils benefit from a rich, well-planned curriculum which provides many exciting opportunities for learning.

As part of Saltergate's role of supporting other schools, Kelly Hemmingway and Sue Lindley are organising and delivering two days of training for two Doncaster schools. The training is based on curriculum and the development of cross-curricular links.

Cornerstones Leader Report - Spring 2015

- After each ILP, planning and work scrutinies have taken place to ensure that the full curriculum objectives have been covered, and those which have not are slotted into new topics.
- Differentiation in curriculum lessons is improving throughout school, this being a previous target.
- Cornerstones budget has been allocated again and the children continue to replenish resources through the enterprise events.
- OFSTED meeting raised no issues, the lead inspector was very happy with how the curriculum was being delivered and monitored in school.
- Teachers are now using the essential skills more effectively to plan differentiation and further progression.
- School visits and engage activities continue to enthral children in their learning.
- 3 employees of Cornerstones recently visited school to evaluate how we use Cornerstones in school, they were delighted to see how it was working in school. So much so that they would like to use the school as a venue to hold meetings and show others around and use as an example of good practice.

- A Case Study has been submitted to Cornerstones Education at their request.

Literacy:

The Ofsted Team recognised Sue Lindley's outstanding leadership of English:

High quality teaching of English through the school underpins the consistently high standards in writing at the end of Year 6. Pupils develop their speaking and listening skills when working in all subjects. Correct terminology and the best choices of vocabulary are consistently expected, so that writing is fluent and accurate whatever the topic. Basic spelling, punctuation and grammar are taught very effectively and always in the context of sentences so that pupils build up their skills through constant use of accurate writing.

Modern Foreign Languages

The French tutor is doing an excellent job teaching French and is well respected by staff and pupils. She is continuing to teach French next year so, after SATS, Mrs McKie will be meeting with her to refine the planning of the curriculum, ensuring this is on the website for parents to view. Mrs McKie will also be looking into informal ways to assess French and she is also hoping to be able to gain more links with Ridgewood for transition.

Maths

Staff and children have adapted well to the challenge of much higher expectations in maths as a result of the new curriculum. We have been using OTRACK to track pupils for STAT Sheffield. During the spring term, we began using the OTRACK Class Track using Ipads. This enables teachers and support colleagues to record exactly where each child is with their learning.

As Maths Leader, Mrs McKie is currently undertaking informal lesson observations in order to gain an overall picture of how Maths is being taught and assessed in school. Book scrutinies will be done alongside this and the Maths Action Plan updated accordingly.

Computing

- A meeting with ACS has taken place to look at the current hardware available in school. Advice was given to replace the current Interactive Whiteboards, which are now outdated. Due to the price of this, it was decided to wait until the whiteboards and projectors are no longer in a workable order.
- It was also recommended that the internet infrastructure needs to be updated and upgraded; this is because there are so many new devices in school, all requiring to access the internet. Current capabilities are stretched and need improving. Two companies so far have visited school, with a view to submitting a quotation. This is to happen from the current budget throughout the summer term.
- ACS report that next year, the computers in the suite and the server will need upgrading to current technologies.
- Implementation of the new curriculum has taken place and some teachers are finding it difficult. The computer science within the curriculum, also known as programming and code, needs to be reviewed for next year - meetings have already been actioned with each year group and Year 4 and 5 have trialled new programming units.
- New assessment is to be introduced to staff for the new year commencing in September - it has been discussed with each teacher and also Mrs Smith as assessment co-ordinator.

- Links between the Computing Governor have been upheld and re-introduced through emails.
- The Green Screen has been introduced and has been used by each year group and class to enhance drama, speaking and listening, confidence and technological skills. The children really enjoy using the green screen and have produced some fantastic pieces of work from it.
- A range of equipment has been collated for Pat testing. A new box has been placed in school for Mr Tyrer to check regularly. A log is kept in the Computing Leaders file and in the office with Mrs Richardson.
- Mrs Smith and Mrs Hemmingway have taken part in CPD for IPADs in the curriculum through Partners in Learning - this allowed them to look at new applications, which have been shared with the relevant members of staff.

- Mrs Hemmingway and Miss Boyd recently went on Apple Training - which was fantastic and will allow our displays around school to become interactive - through the use of augmented reality. A staff meeting to disseminate information is pending.
- Mrs Hemmingway attended a course to learn the basics of the Computer Technician to aid technological problems with hardware and software in school.

Sports and PE Update

The summer term has seen further improvement to the PE equipment available to our teachers and children. Through the Sports Premium funding, we have been able to buy new bibs, rugby equipment and a football kit for years 3 and 4.

Extra-Curricular clubs have taken place throughout the term so far, including: a dance/cheerleading club for year 4, a tag rugby club for year 5 and 6, a netball club for year 5 and an indoor athletics club for all years. These clubs have been run by outside agencies and coaches. We have recently created a strong link with Wheatley Hills Rugby Club which we hope to continue next year.

During the Summer term, we have entered many different sporting tournaments, including football for all years, (girls and boys), tag rugby (Y5 & 6) and the Doncaster Cross Country Tournament at Hill House School. A number of courses have been available to teachers to learn more about certain areas of PE and the teaching of it. Mr Thomas was asked by Active Fusion to lead part of a PE conference earlier in the term in which he was asked to discuss how our school has used the Sports Premium money as well as discussing how to teach an outstanding PE lesson. The conference was a huge success which saw head teachers, PE teachers and sports coaches extremely impressed with the way our school has gone about improving PE and sport.

Teaching and Learning

Lesson observations and scrutiny of learning have taken place throughout the year, and the judgements of the SLT that teaching is outstanding were confirmed by Ofsted.

- The highest expectations and rigorous challenge are hallmarks of the outstanding teaching seen throughout the school. They lead to pupils' rapid learning and excellent overall achievement.
- Teachers' continuous focus on their own professional development and its impact on their teaching have a direct influence on pupils' attitudes so they, too, are inspired always to do their best.
- Teachers value pupils' ideas and the contribution they make to lessons. This boosts pupils' confidence. It makes pupils more excited about their learning and more eager to 'have a go'.
- Learning is supported exceptionally well by resourceful planning and preparation. Precisely matched work is checked on continuously by adults in the classroom so that rapid progress is a matter of course.
- All adults question pupils extremely well. They expect explanations from pupils. These improve pupils' speaking skills and give a clear measure of their understanding of what they learn.
- Imaginative methods are used to capture pupils' interest and stimulate learning. Lessons are re-shaped if a better method is found to help pupils learn, so that every step in learning is secure before pupils move on to the next. In a lesson about equivalent fractions, for example, new learning resources were produced when the teacher recognised that some pupils were not as confident with the concept as she would like them to be. This helped pupils a great deal and their learning was secure by the end of the lesson.
- The teaching of mathematics is excellent. Pupils learn multiplication tables and how numbers work

Pupils' Achievement

We are very proud of our children who excel at many things, both in and out of school. Pupils' Achievement was praised by the Ofsted Team as follows:

- Most pupils enter Year 3 with above average levels of attainment overall. The school builds on this positive start extremely well and raises standards further, so that they are well above average in reading, writing and mathematics by the end of Year 6.
- Published data show that standards have been significantly above national averages for the past five years. Similar standards were evident when the school was last inspected in 2006. Pupils' current work and school assessments indicate that pupils currently in Year 6 are working at a higher level than in previous years.
- Pupils make outstanding progress overall. The proportion which made expected progress in writing in 2014 was above average and a significantly higher proportion than the national average did better than expected. This picture of progress was similar in mathematics.
- Pupils are fluent readers at the end of Year 6. They use good expression and fully understand what they read. They read widely for information and for pleasure. They have a good knowledge of the styles of different authors and are clear about their own preferences for reading.
- The most able pupils are provided for well in all lessons. There is provision over and above this, such as special mathematics groups and additional booster lessons in English. In 2014 the proportions of pupils reaching the highest possible level, Level 6 in mathematics, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling were all above the national averages.
- Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are provided for very well. Individual learning plans are fully understood by pupils and parents, and progress is checked regularly. The quality of teaching they get and the additional support means that overall they make good progress and in some instances, excellent progress from their starting points. Nevertheless, the school's data show that a very small number of pupils do not make as much progress as others in all subjects. This was recognised by senior leaders, and some actions have begun to show good results, especially in reading.

Pupil Premium

As you are aware, we have used our Pupil Premium money effectively in order to support children with personalised education. The result of this strategy has been year on year improvement. Attainment and progress has increased for these children and also narrowing the gap between them and their peers has occurred.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Ward has almost completed the Sheffield Hallam SENCo qualification. She has worked extremely hard and is already an outstanding SENCo. A new system, CPOMs, has been introduced; this is an efficient way of recording a range of information for every child in school. Everything recorded for each child can be seen at a glance and it is an excellent way of tracking any issues including safeguarding.

Ofsted wrote the following about our provision:

*Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are provided for very well. Individual learning plans are fully understood by pupils and parents, and progress is checked regularly. The quality of teaching they get and the additional support means that overall they make good progress and in some instances, excellent progress from their starting points. Nevertheless, the school's data show that a **very small number of pupils** do not make as much progress as others in all subjects. This was recognised by senior leaders, and some actions have begun to show good results, especially in reading. Leaders acknowledge that more rigorous checking is needed to ensure equal progress across all areas of learning for those pupils.*

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- *Check on the learning of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs with increased rigour in order to close any remaining gaps in their progress more rapidly.*

Ofsted acknowledged that the group they referred to was very small and they also recognised that these children are carefully tracked. The introduction of Class Track has further enhanced provision for all pupils including those with special needs.

The Community

PTA

The PTA organised a very successful Easter Coffee Morning which raised almost one thousand pounds. Our PTA team of volunteers are doing a superb job at raising the profile of the school in the community and fund raising for additional resources for the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support.

Basic Skills Charter Renewal

The Basic Skills assessors confirmed that we continue to meet fully the criteria for the renewal of the Basics Skills Quality Mark. Mrs Smith was praised for her excellent organisation of resources and evidence. (Please refer to the letter included in your pack).

Preparing for Healthy Living Day 2015

After the success of last year's Healthy Living Day, we were eager to deliver another day using the same format but creating new activities for the children to take part in. We have been busy planning the day and researching the different equipment we will need.

Partnership

We continue to promote good relationships with the LA, schools and the local community. Saltersgate is involved with Initial Teacher Training, in Doncaster, and we are involved with the Doncaster Teaching School Alliance. As a Local Leader of Education, I am supporting two Doncaster schools and members of the SLT are soon to become Specialist leaders of Education. I am very proud of our outstanding team and extremely grateful for their continued dedication to Saltersgate.

Transition

New To Year Three Meeting

All staff are to attend the 'New to Year Three' meeting in June. Practical help and information will be provided. Year Two children are to visit school several times during the summer term. They are to have lessons in the Sports Hall and attend some assemblies. The LA has, for the first time requested that all Junior Schools are involved in the moderation of Key Stage 1 SATs this year. This should be beneficial for everyone involved.

Buddy Bonding

The 'Buddy Bonding' system continues to provide valuable support for Year Two children set to join the school in September. The transition from the Infant School receives high attention, with close liaison and planning between both schools.

Transition to Secondary Schools

Transition plans and the time involved have been extended this year. The transition of our Year 6 children involves a range of visits and meetings to ensure that our children feel as confident as possible about their move to secondary school. For the first time, Year 6 children are to spend a whole week at Ridgewood in June. Maggie Dunn, the Ridgewood Head, is extremely keen to work closely with all feeder schools and this extension to transition is one of many initiatives that she has introduced. Suzi Hamilton, Ridgewood Assistant Head has also been very proactive at organising Pyramid Working Groups. Links between our two schools are currently very strong.

School Development and Self Evaluation

The School Improvement Plan is reviewed regularly and was updated in March. The plan reflects exactly what the school requires to develop and improve further. The plan is very much about driving ambition, achievement and enjoyment forward, maintaining high standards, and understanding how to ensure effective learning occurs consistently throughout school. The plan

will be updated again, after the end of year tests, in order to reflect responses to data. The Ofsted Inspectors praised the fact that we have our SEF on the school Website, (something that they have seen only very rarely) they were pleased that we had the confidence and transparency to do so.

Appraisal

All staff continue to work extremely hard towards achieving the challenging targets set during appraisal meetings early in the academic year. Responsibility for progress and accelerated learning for all children remain at the heart of day to day teaching and learning. The use of Class Tracker as part of O Track is helping everyone to judge and track how children are attaining and achieving in the New Curriculum. Year Leaders have worked extremely hard and they have taken a major role in overseeing progress and narrowing the gaps between vulnerable groups and all groups.

Staff Development

Much of our training has been delivered in-house and Working Groups have been formed in order to research how to plan and deliver the new curriculum.

Other training has centred upon:

- * Cornerstones and the New Curriculum;
- * Physical Education;
- * The Outstanding teacher Programme
- *The effective use of ipads to enhance the curriculum
- * Anti- Bullying
- *Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation
- *Phonics
- *Spelling
- *Specialist Leaders of Education
- * Safe guarding training;

Teacher Training

It has been a successful year for training teachers and students, with strong links forged with many universities. This year, we have supported students either on a placement or on a voluntary basis in all year groups. We

have worked alongside Bishop Grossteste in Lincoln and Leeds Trinity University to offer placements to students in their education degree studies.

Finance/Sites and Premises

The governors have approved the school budget for 2015/2016. Gill Richardson has done an excellent job and has worked hard to guarantee best value for money.

The budget has allowed for continued investment to support the School Improvement Plan and additional staff to help all children, particularly those who may be failing to make good progress. We continue to invest in our building in order to ensure the very best learning environments. We have begun the next cycle of decorating the school; this is to begin with corridors and communal areas. The former Green Wall should be resurfaced in cladding before the end of term.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety and Safeguarding remain high profile and form a routine part of every school day. I recently attended an H and S update course for headteachers. It is essential that we remain vigilant. All staff are knowledgeable and accept the importance of effective policies and procedures in this area.

Safeguarding

The annual Safeguarding Audit has been completed and returned to the LA. Since the submission of the audit a 'Looked After Child' has joined us, she is under the care of Barnsley and her first review has taken place. All members of the reviewing panel (including foster parents) praised our school and confirmed that already positive impact can be seen. The child is now eager to attend school, has made friends, is engaged in learning and has made progress.

Saltersgate Junior School
Dates for your diary
2014/2015

Date	<u>Event</u>	Year/Class	Time
Friday 6 th March 2015	Crucial Crew Visit	Year 6	
Monday 9 th March 2015	IEP Fortnight commences		
Monday 9 th March 2015	Open Week Begins	Years 3,4,5,6	
17 th -18 th March	Ofsted Inspection		
Wednesday 25 th March 2015	Easter Coffee Morning		9.15am
Thursday 26th March 2015	<i>School closes to pupils at the end of the day for the Easter break</i>	All Years	3.35pm
Friday 27th March 2015	<i>Staff Training Day</i>		8.50am
Monday 13th April 2015	<i>School re-opens to pupils</i>	All Years	8.50am
Tuesday 14 th April 2015	Year 3 Visit Austerfield	Year 3	
	Out of School Visits Committee Meet		4.30pm
Wednesday 15 th April 2015	Basic Skills Assessment		
Friday 17 th April 2015	ITT Student Training Day x 45 Visitors		All day
Tuesday 21 st April 2015	M Oxer visiting J Duhig		
Tuesday 28 th April 2015	Class & Group Photographs	Years 3/4/5	
Friday 1st May 2015	<i>School closes to staff & pupils at the end of the day for May Day</i>	All Years	3.35pm
Tuesday 5th May 2015	<i>School re-opens to staff & pupils J Duhig and S Monypenny to see MO</i>	All Years	8.50am
Monday 11 th May 2015	SAT's Week commences	Year 6	
Monday 18 th May 2015	Non-stat SAT's Week commences	Years 3,4,5	
	France Parents Meeting	Year 6	5pm
Wednesday 20 th May 2015	PTA Disco	All Years	5.00 to 6.30pm
Thursday 21 st May 2015	World Diversity Day		
Thursday 21st May 2015	<i>School closes to pupils at the end of the day for Spring Half Term</i>	All Years	3.35pm
Friday 22nd May 2015	<i>Staff Training Day</i>		
Monday 1st June 2015	<i>School re-opens to pupils</i>	All Years	8.50am
Tuesday 2 nd June 2015	Medicines Training	Staff	3.45pm
Wednesday 3 rd June 2015	Year 3 visit Austerfield	Year 3	
Thursday 4 th June 2015	Year 4 visit Shrek the Musical	Year 4	
Monday 8 th June 2015	Group Photos	Year 6	1pm
Tuesday 9 th June 2015	Book Fair delivered for remainder of week	All Years	
Thursday 11 th June 2015	Defibrillator Training	Staff	3pm
Monday 15 th June 2015	Year 6 France visit commences	Year 6	
Monday 15 th June 2015	Maths Transition week		
Monday 15 th June 2015	IEP Fortnight commences		
Tuesday 23 rd June 2015	New to Year 3 Parents Evening	Year 2	6.00pm
Thursday 25 th June 2015	Sports Day	All Years	1.15pm
Tuesday 30 th June 2015	Responsible Officer Visit (Audit)		
	Finance Committee meeting		5.00pm
	Full Governing Body Meeting		5.30pm

Thursday 2 nd July 2015	Reserve Sports Day	All Years	1.15pm
Tuesday 7 th July 2015	Summer Fayre		PM
	Leavers Assembly	Year 6	9.15am
Thursday 9 th July 2015	Fire Safety Training	Staff	
Monday 13 th July 2015	Children's University Graduation Day		
Monday 13 th July 2015	Reports to parents		
Wednesday 15 th July 2015	Open Evening	All Years	4.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 16 th July 2015	Pupils visit new classes	Years 3,4,5	
Friday 17 th July 2015	Year 6 Leavers Party		1.15pm
Friday 17th July 2015	<i>School closes to pupils at the end of the day for the summer break</i>	All Years	3.35pm