



The Deanery Church of England Academy
Peglars Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7DA

T: 01793 236611 enquiries@dcea.org.uk www.dcea.org.uk

Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

Updated – 22nd November 2023 (see first question & answer)

Parent Feedback relating to the Ofsted Judgement

Below are our responses to areas of feedback received from parents. We are sharing this with you all to remain completely transparent and we will add to this with responses to any further feedback received.

Has the school received a Termination Warning Notice?

DBAT has received a Termination Warning Notice (TWN) from the Department for Education (DfE), in relation to The Deanery. This is the normal and expected next step following an Ofsted judgement of inadequate. The Termination Warning Notice is the DfE's formal notification that they are considering removing The Deanery from DBAT as a result of the special measures judgement. There is the opportunity for DBAT to respond to the TWN and the DfE will consider these representations prior to confirming their decision. We expect to be able to share whether The Deanery will stay within the DBAT family, or move to a different Trust, early in the new calendar year.

Safeguarding

The Ofsted report has stated that safeguarding is effective at The Deanery. For context, in any Ofsted report this assessment is a binary one, and the outcome is recorded as either effective or ineffective. The report says that safeguarding procedures are effective in our school.

Trust Level Support

The Trust has placed an experienced Headteacher at The Deanery. Mrs. Osborne-James has also previously supported both Wichelstowe schools as a Hub Director of Learning.

We have brokered support from another secondary school to focus on leadership, quality of education, SEND and Career Guidance.

The Trust has also created a detailed post-Ofsted action plan that will be followed by all stakeholders in the school and trust. We are confident that this will deliver a rapid improvement to the school. There are termly trust reviews of the school, to identify the impact of improvements and to provide support and challenge.

Recruitment Challenges

We have continued to recruit staff despite a national teacher recruitment and retention crisis. We are implementing a communication plan which will improve the profile of the school locally to attract inspirational teachers.

We have the support of dedicated members of the trust Central Team to ensure that we are maximising both our advertising reach and our attractiveness to candidates. We work rigorously and responsively to secure high-quality candidates who would like to join our school.

We recognise that we currently have a high level of cover teachers at the Deanery. Our priority is to ensure that all lessons are delivered consistently, and a high quality of learning is facilitated. The majority of staff supporting us in school in a cover context are long term members of staff and all share a commitment to our vision and values. Our expectation is that every adult, with responsibility for learning, knows the individual needs of every child in their class, in order to set them up for success.

Ambitious Curriculum

All faculty heads have the subject knowledge and expertise to ensure their schemes of learning are sequenced, progressive and meet the needs of our students. Many of our faculties are performing at a high level already. Where this is currently not the case, networking across our partnership school will provide professional dialogue and help to improve results. This will include the sharing of good practice and opportunities for joint moderation.

We will also be adopting a new assessment policy that will drive practice to ensure that assessments are accurate and timely.

Communication with Parents

Whilst communication has not been satisfactory to date, we have taken action to address this since the release of the report. This includes a weekly headteacher email to parents and updates in parent evenings and tutor evenings. There is a tutor evening on the 22nd November where you can discuss your child's progress. A letter about this will be with you this week.

There will also be a trust review in December, and from January onwards we are expecting a monitoring visit from Ofsted to ensure that the agreed plan is firmly in progress. We will share the feedback from these visits with parents as soon as we can.

Can I meet with the Headteacher to discuss the Ofsted report?

We are not able to arrange parent meetings with Mrs Osborne-James at present as she is concentrating on supporting our staff, to ensure that all children can meet their potential. We hope that you understand our need to prioritise in this way.

SEND Support

Following his appointment as acting SENDCo, Mr Dan has made significant impact in terms of the identification of the needs of some children. We recognise that this work is part of the long term, ongoing plan and that there is still more to do. The Trust has also provided support from the DEI Lead and with our partnership school SENDCo.

We believe that an overall improvement in the consistency of high-quality teaching across the school will have a significant impact on all children, including those with additional needs.

Headteacher Appointment

It is our expectation that Mrs. Osborne-James will be in post for the remainder of this academic year with a permanent appointment being made during this time.

Has the school received a Termination Warning Notice?

DBAT has received a Termination Warning Notice (TWN) from the Department for Education (DfE), in relation to The Deanery. This is the normal and expected next step following an Ofsted judgement of inadequate. The Termination Warning Notice is the DfE's formal notification that they are considering removing The Deanery from DBAT as a result of the special measures judgement. There is the opportunity for DBAT to respond to the TWN and the DfE will consider these representations prior to confirming their decision. We expect to be able to share whether The Deanery will stay within the DBAT family, or move to a different Trust, early in the new calendar year.

If you have any questions in relation to the Ofsted plan, or judgement, please email feedback@dcea.org.uk

