

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Special Measures**

### **What does it mean to be placed into 'Special Measures'?**

The term 'Special measures' is a term used by Ofsted following inspections and refers to the need for the school to receive additional, external support in order to secure the required improvements.

### **What do Ofsted say the school is doing well?**

- The new Headteacher recognises the issues facing the school.
- The curriculum to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social development is good.
- Pupils make better progress in music, physical education (PE), humanities and modern foreign languages. Girls make good progress in English.
- Girls make good progress in English.
- Pupils feel safe. Bullying is rare.

### **What do Ofsted say needs to improve?**

- Progress in Mathematics.
- Monitoring and evaluation of performance by school leaders.
- Progress of Key groups: Boys, Disadvantaged pupils and pupils who have SEN/disabilities.
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- Behaviour of some pupils.
- Governance needs to be reviewed.

### **What has/will be done to work towards these improvements?**

A review of Governance will be commissioned.

The Governing Body will be supported and strengthened by the addition of an extra Governor from the LA and Diocese.

In Maths we have appointed two maths teachers who will be joining us on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April. We are working collaboratively with a leading school in the authority, a Specialist Leader of Maths Education and the Greater Manchester Maths Hubs. We are also part of a Strategic School Improvement Project. We have carried out an online survey to benchmark the pupils' current view on Maths. External expertise will be used to evaluate the impact of this.

We will work with National and Local Leaders of Education and two Teaching schools to support the Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leaders and continue to review Pupil Premium Funding allocation and its impact.

We are working together reviewing our school improvement priorities to move forward with a clear plan.

### **What help will the school receive from outside agencies?**

The school will work closely with the Diocese of Salford, the Local Authority, National Teaching Schools judged by OFSTED to be outstanding, National Leader of Governance, National, Local and Specialist Leaders of Education.

### **What differences will my child notice?**

The day to day experience of pupils is unlikely to change in terms of structure and procedures. However, in lessons pupils will notice increased levels of challenge and demand. They may also see more visitors in classes and around school involved in scrutinising and evaluating teaching and learning. The impact of all the strategies that are being put in place is aimed at enhancing provision and improving outcomes for all pupils.

### **What will parents/carers notice is different?**

The school may receive monitoring visits from Ofsted within the next twelve months which will focus on the areas raised by the report. We will maintain clear communication with parents and carers as we move forward

### **What can parents/carers do to help?**

Parents/carers can help by continuing to help and support their child in working hard at school and at home. By continuing to support the school's efforts to maintain high standards of behaviour, punctuality and uniform both in and outside of school parents/carers are directly contributing to improving outcomes.

The vast majority of our community are positive and set wonderful examples, it is important that this is upheld by everyone.

### **The last report was 'Outstanding'. I am worried that the school has not maintained this.**

It is a disappointment to all involved with the school that this has not been maintained.

Ofsted have themselves identified that 2017 marks a year of significant changes to GCSE examinations and directed that Inspectors should not compare results from last year with results this year for the new GCSEs.

With the help and support of its partners the school will be doing all it can to ensure improved outcomes this year and in the future. All involved are confident that, with the additional support provided we can move forward incisively and with pace and the required improvements can, and will, be made in addition to maintain the strengths identified.

### **Will the school receive more money for being placed in 'Special Measures'?**

Not directly. However, it will now be possible for bids to be made to the Department for Education on behalf of the school to secure funding to finance support programmes. Preliminary work on submitting a substantial bid is already underway.

### **Will the school become an academy?**

The order will require the school to move towards academisation. We will be working with the Diocese, Local Authority and Regional Schools Commissioner in the best interests of the school to support the Catholic ethos of St Monica's Roman Catholic High School that has been recognised as a strength.

### **How will the school come out of 'Special Measures'?**

Monitoring visits will take place conducted by an inspector who will consider the progress the school is making in addressing the areas for improvement. At some point in the future the school will again be inspected, and a judgement made about provision and outcomes. If the required improvements have been made the school will no longer be subject to special measures.

### **How often will the school be visited by inspectors in the future?**

We anticipate inspectors may visit within the next 12 months.

### **Will teachers leave?**

Every year some teachers leave the school for a variety of reasons. Teachers at St Monica's are committed to their job and are passionate about improving provision and outcomes for our pupils. We do not anticipate that the school being placed in 'special measures' will have an impact on retaining our staff. The school will continue to pursue a proactive recruitment strategy aimed at securing the best teachers.

Although the report was disappointing the school is confident that the outlook for the future is very positive. The additional support and regular monitoring that will be provided will help to ensure that rapid progress will be made. Staff at the school are determined to do all they can to secure the required improvements.

I ask that parents/carers continue to support the school in every way they can as the future success of the school is reliant on a close and effective home/school partnership.