



A Statement by Elliott Park School.

We are responding to the recent Ofsted Inspection and the report subsequently published.

We believe that the report does not give a true reflection of the school and its achievements. There have been new guidelines issued since the last Ofsted Inspection and these new guidelines do not fairly take into consideration the fact that Elliott Park is a very small independent school which offers a unique tailored environment for children to develop and learn. We are most proud of the safe, secure and friendly environment that our children enjoy, with small class sizes that allow us to nurture personal development, good behaviour and welfare, for this Ofsted have rated us as GOOD. However, in other areas we have been downgraded to 'Requires improvement' due to technicalities. It should be noted that the description of the levels attained have been changed. What was previously described as 'Satisfactory' has now been downgraded to 'Requires Improvement'.

One of our key goals is for our children to attain the best 11+ result possible for their academic ability, so as to be offered their first choice of secondary school. The results in the table below show our record for the last three years.

	Leavers	Grammar School Places	Percentage of Grammar School Places
2015	10	8	80%
2016	6	6*	100%
2017	7**	5	71%

* One of our students gained the highest 11+ result in Swale.

** One of the leavers had only joined EPS in Year 6, so had not benefited from a full education at EPS, otherwise we would have reported 5 out of 6 attained grammar school places.

These results are well above the national average and demonstrate that the school nurtures and develops children's educational needs to a very high standard.

During the last two years the government has introduced new age standardised scores for assessing children's abilities at the end of Year 6.

	Below National Average		National Average		Above National Average	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
English Reading	0	0	2	2	4	5
English GPS	0	0	3	5	3	2
Maths	0	0	3	6	3	1

These results again demonstrate that the school has performed well above the national targets, with 100% of pupils attaining at least the National Average score.

The report also criticises the proprietor's lack of checks on the quality of teaching and learning across the school. This is not relevant in a small independent school like Elliott Park. Our proprietor rescued the school from financial ruin in 2009 and has since fully supported the school. He has invested significantly in the development of the nursery and in the buildings and school equipment. He continues to offer the school total financial stability and assists the school with its management and strategic planning. However, our proprietor is a successful local businessman who has no previous experience in the education profession or teaching and has designated the responsibility for the academic governance to our head teacher and deputy head teacher; Mrs Hiller and Mrs Dolman have many years of experience in managing and running the infant and junior areas of a school and have continually demonstrated their commitment and passion for their roles. Yet for Ofsted this has resulted in a downgrading of the 'Quality of Teaching' assessment to 'Requires Improvement'.

Our head teacher and deputy head teacher carry out frequent and regular checks on the quality of teaching and learning across the school. They plan lessons and work with teachers to monitor development and learning. We will now be forced to allocate funds to the administration of record keeping of these tasks to satisfy the requirements of Ofsted.

However, we do acknowledge that we can improve and we are determined to do so. We are, therefore, allocating more time from next term to Mrs Hiller and Mrs Dolman to enable them to make regular checks on teaching and to log those checks in more detail. This will allow us to identify training needs and make improvements.

In summary the result of the inspection is down to record keeping and paperwork and not in reality a reflection of the school's ability to teach.

Mr T Allsworth - Proprietor

Mrs C Hiller - Head Teacher

Mrs S Dolman - Deputy Head Teacher

Elliott Park School