

NORTH ROAD ACADEMY
NORTH ROAD
COBRIDGE
STOKE ON TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST6 2BP



Thursday 02nd May 2024

Asslaamu'alaykum Wa Rahmathullaah

Dear Parents & Carers

As a follow up from our previous progress monitoring inspection that took place on the 13th September 2024, North Road Academy had another unannounced Ofsted monitoring inspection on the 20th February 2024. This inspection was carried out by a Senior HM Inspector.

Alhamdulillah, the HM Inspector had many positive remarks to say about the 'Quality of Education' at North Road Academy. The Inspector observed the following:

"Leaders have worked diligently to embed the improvements in the quality of education that were noted at the time of the previous monitoring inspection. They have implemented successfully the school's improvement action plan and continue to monitor its impact on pupils' education. This means that the school is able to demonstrate that part 1 of the independent school standards (the standards) is met more consistently over time."

"The school has welcomed external support from educational consultants. This support has helped to develop the expertise of subject leaders. In turn, these subject leaders have provided training and development opportunities for staff. This has boosted staff's expertise and confidence in teaching the curriculum."

During the inspection, the HM Inspector raised a concern over safeguarding roles:

"This is because the DSL and deputy DSL are the proprietors of the school. This means that safeguarding roles are not able to be discharged with sufficient independence."

Due to this concern the HM Inspector stated in his report that the following standards are *un-met*.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

During feedback (on the day) from the HM Inspector the school objected to the safeguarding concern and later officially complained to the Department of Education. The complaint was lodged by the School given the fact the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and deputy DSL had been in these roles since 2019 during which period we had 2 inspections by Ofsted and this had never previously been questioned/raised. The School questioned that had the issue of DSL been raised during either of those inspections, the school would have immediately rectified this.

After being made aware of this concern (on the 20th February 2024), the school immediately trained and replaced the DSL and deputy DSL.

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I have attached a copy of the response to the complaint that we made to Ofsted

In their response Ofsted stated the following:

“I note that you have taken swift action following the inspection, ensuring that two new DSLs have been appointed and trained, that the safeguarding policy has been updated and that staff have been informed of the changes.”....

“I would like to add my apology to that of the lead inspector, for the fact that this issue was not raised at the previous two inspections, as it should have been.”

Qadr Allaah even though we had complained, and good has come out of this, the complaint was ‘**not upheld**’. Alhamdulillah ‘Ala Kulli Haal – we didn’t wait for the outcome, rather we rapidly did whatever was necessary to meet the un-met standards.

Finally, I would like to assure parents and carers that no children were at risk or in danger this period, rather safeguarding was and is always at the heart of everything that we do at North Road Academy and this was further emphasised by the HM Inspector in his report as follows:

“The school has fostered a positive safeguarding culture where pupils’ well-being is promoted. Adults understand safeguarding risks in the school’s local area and work hard to protect pupils from potential harm. Leaders make safeguarding everyone’s responsibility and staff are alert to any signs that pupils may need help. Staff in the early years are clear about their role in promoting the early years welfare arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) works well with external agencies to protect and support pupils when necessary. All this means that pupils feel safe at school.”

I have attached a copy of the HM Inspectors report alongside a copy of the response to our complaint.

I have also arranged for a meeting to be held this Friday the 3rd 2024 at 12.20pm for any parents/carers who have any further questions specifically related to the inspection or complaint.

We make Dua’ to Allaah, that we shall have good news for both parents and children following our next inspection inshaa’Allaah.

Ustaadh Naeem