



Barton Hill Academy Ofsted Report October 2017

Stakeholder communication

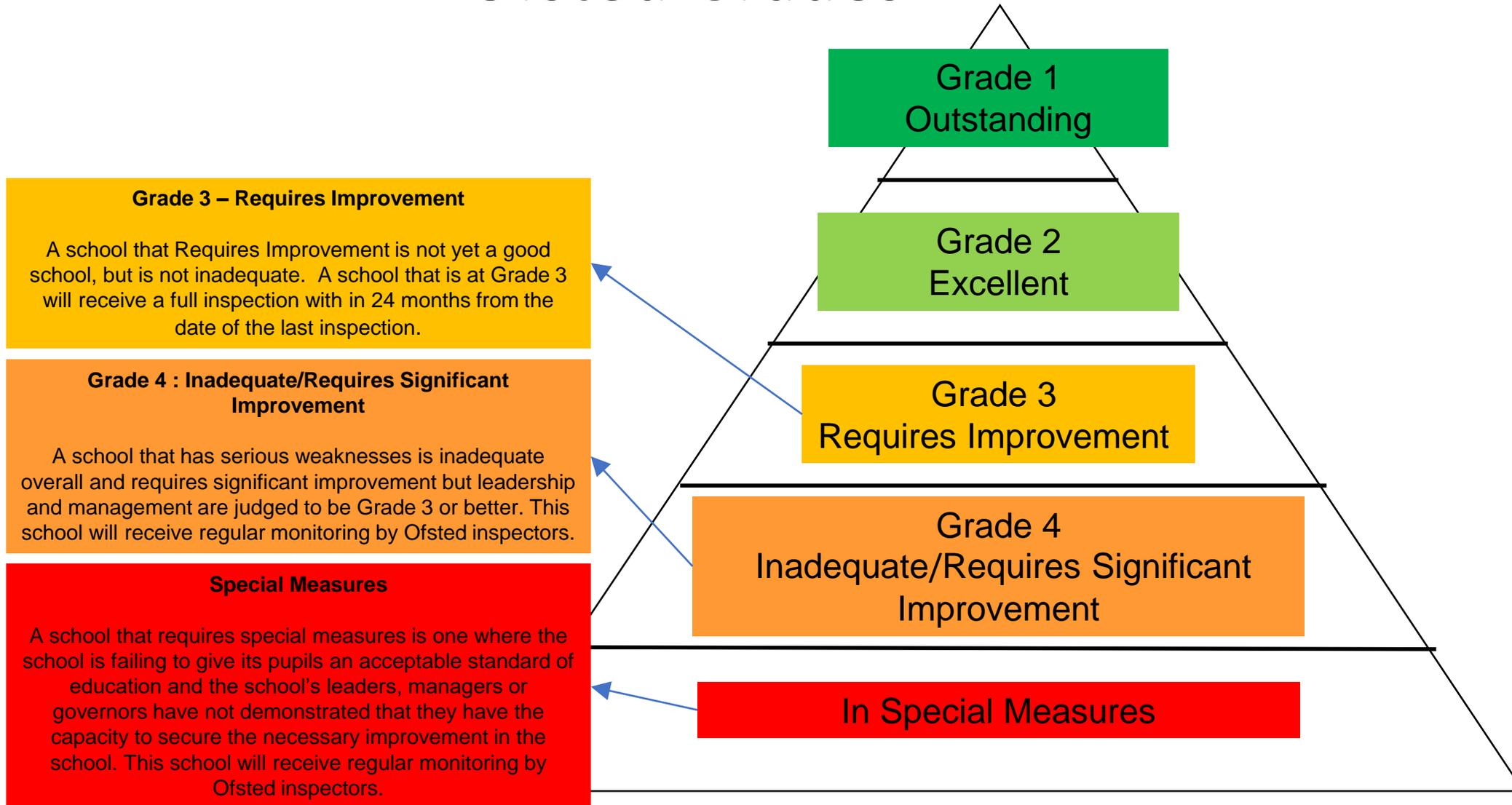


Barton Hill Academy – Ofsted Judgement:

This school requires significant improvement.



Ofsted Grades





Strengths

- Pupils are making faster progress than previously.
- The current leadership team has implemented systems and approaches to improve:
 - The quality of teaching
 - Learning and behaviour
- The capacity of leaders and governors for improvement is now effective.



Strengths

- Pupils are polite, friendly and enjoy coming to school.
- Leaders ensure that vulnerable pupils receive the support they require.
- Attendance is improving quickly.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective and pupils are safe.



Weaknesses

- Inconsistent quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- Not all pupils are achieving expected standards in reading, phonics and maths.
- Lesson plans are not always sufficiently adapted to challenge the most able pupils.
- In Early Years, boys under achieve and resources reflecting the school's cultural diversity are limited.



Making progress

- We have a strong and committed leadership team.
- We have implemented a monitoring system to rapidly improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, including:
 - Regular monitoring of children's progress
 - Regular observing of teaching by senior leaders
 - Reviewing lesson plans to ensure challenge for all groups
 - Creating better classroom environments



Making progress

- Reinforcing good behaviour in and out of class:
 - Increasing the level of challenge in class
 - Improving behaviour management during break times and lunch times
 - Mentor scheme for vulnerable children
- Improving staff well-being to build a better team:
 - Cultural changes to improve working environment
 - Regular appraisals, appropriate training
 - Greater planning and timetabling



Making progress

- Encouraging more involvement with parents and carers:
 - Increased information sharing via the new website
 - Parents in school - open mornings, celebration of work days, reading café
 - Launch 'Parents Academy Improvement Group'
- Strengthening networks and partnerships within the community.
- Continuing to develop the Governing Body.



Next steps

- Continue making progress as outlined.
- Appoint permanent leadership team.
- Continue to work in collaboration with parents/carers.
- Work with Ofsted through their monitoring visits.
- Follow the Academy Improvement Plan, as endorsed by Ofsted.

Venturers Trust



Barton Hill Academy is part of a very supportive Trust, sponsored by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the University of Bristol.

The opportunities are enormous and include:

- Academy Improvement Director (2 days per week)
- Director of Primary Education (1 day per week)
- Significant financial investment
- Hands-on, practical support, including access to enhanced resources, shared central services and cross-Trust learning.



Active, effective Governors

- Highly-involved and visible Chair.
- Committed to driving the school forward.
- Dedicated, enthusiastic parent governors.
- Breadth of skills.
- Strong community links.



What did Ofsted say?

- Governors now in post are ambitious for the school and have a realistic understanding of its strengths and areas for improvement. They regularly monitor the progress of the areas identified for improvement and are gaining a critical understanding of the impact that the school's actions are having on pupils' outcomes.
- Governors challenge leaders on the performance of teachers. Through effective appraisal systems, they have taken action to address poor teaching. As a result, there are increased expectations for staff to raise outcomes for all learners.

Strong, dedicated Leadership Team



- Driving the school's performance.
- Active and committed Interim Principal.
- Effective Leadership Team structure.
- Robust selection process underway for a new Principal.
- Significant progress already made.
- Strategic action plan in place.



What did Ofsted say?

- The leadership team has accurately identified and is acting upon the school's key priorities and areas identified for improvement.
- Their capacity and determination to move the school forward is very evident.
- Leaders are acting quickly and successfully to tackle the legacy of poor teaching and learning.
- Leaders are focusing upon developing the capacity of middle leaders to enable them to raise standards in their subjects.
- Leaders accurately evaluate the impact of additional funds for disadvantaged pupils.
- Leaders have improved behaviour across the school.



In summary

- We are part of a very supportive Trust.
- We have active and effective Governors.
- We have a strong leadership team and enthusiastic teachers.

And most of all....

- We are part of a wonderful community, proud of our bright and happy children.