

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform  
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To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014

Subject: Ofsted Inspection Outcome Up-date

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: County Wide

**Summary:**

This report summarises the performance of Kent schools in Ofsted inspections in the period from September 2013 to February 2014, and provides the overall latest inspection figures for all schools in Kent.

**Recommendation:**

The Education Cabinet Committee is invited to note the progress being achieved and comment on the information contained in this report.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 In the 2012-2013 academic year, Kent schools made good progress in improving inspection outcomes and in increasing the number of good and outstanding schools. At the end of the academic year 2012-2013, 70% of Kent schools were judged good or outstanding. This included 75% of Secondary schools, 68% of Primary schools and 80% of Special schools. Kent's percentage improvement in the number of good and outstanding schools, in the academic year 2012-2013, was 11%, which is better than the national rate of improvement of 9%. This was very encouraging.
- 1.2 In 2012-2013 in Kent, 16% of schools were outstanding and 54% were judged good by Ofsted, compared to 20% outstanding and 58% good nationally. Our priority for 2013 onwards was to close the gap with the national picture, and exceed it.
- 1.3 At the end of the 2012-2013 school year there were 141 (24%) mainstream schools requiring improvement, excluding Pupil Referral Units. This was a significant improvement compared to September 2012 when there were 211 (37%) Primary and Secondary schools requiring improvement.
- 1.4 At the start of September 2013 there were 20 schools in an Ofsted category of concern, having failed their inspection. 15 schools successfully came out of category during 2012-2013, but 17 maintained schools were judged inadequate and went into category.
- 1.5 A key challenge is to ensure no school is judged inadequate, every school requiring improvement becomes a good school within the next two years, and that we

continue to work together in partnership to ensure no good and outstanding schools decline.

## 2. Ofsted Inspections September 2013 to February 2014

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Overall
Outstanding	3	4	5	12
Good	14	20	12	46
RI	13	13	4	30
Category	5	9	0	14
RI to Good	7	14	6	27
Good to Outstanding	1	3	2	6
Total number of inspections				102

- 2.1 Since September 2013 there have been 102 Ofsted inspections of Kent schools. 58 schools, or 57% of those inspected, achieved good or outstanding judgements. Of particular note are the 27 schools (27%) that improved their judgement from requiring improvement to good and the six schools (6%) that improved their judgement from good to outstanding. In addition six schools maintained their outstanding judgement and 16 schools maintained their good judgement. Three schools dropped from outstanding to good.
- 2.2 These latest figures mean that currently, 75% of schools are now good or outstanding. This includes 71% of Primary schools, 81% of Secondary schools, 75% of Special schools and 75% of Pupil Referral Units. The national average is 78% of schools good or outstanding.
- 2.3 The latest figures also mean that 73% of pupils in Kent now attend a good or outstanding school. This includes 67% of Primary school pupils, 79% of Secondary school pupils, 75% of Special school pupils and 76% of pupils attending a Pupil Referral Unit.
- 2.4 However, there is concern about the number of schools that received an inadequate inspection judgement. Since September 2013, 14 schools were judged inadequate by Ofsted, and 3 schools came out of category, which is disappointing. There are currently 25 maintained schools in category and 3 academies.
- 2.5 By the end of July 2014 the expectation is that this number of category schools will have reduced to no more than 11 schools. This assumes that no other schools fail their inspection. Following each failed inspection, the Local Authority has undertaken an investigation into the school to establish what more could have been done to bring about a more positive outcome. In each case the judgements centred on poor pupil progress and low achievement.
- 2.6 In addition it is also a concern that 18 schools were re-inspected and remained no better than satisfactory, or requiring improvement, and 7 schools declined from either good or outstanding. The schools that were previously satisfactory and are now deemed to be requiring improvement had not made good enough progress or shown sufficient improvement since their last inspection. This also applies to schools that have declined from good or outstanding. If Kent is going to achieve its

ambitious target of 90% of schools being judged good or better by 2016-17, we need to ensure that there is a significant improvement in the number of satisfactory schools achieving a good inspection judgement. Overall however, Kent continues to achieve a positive upward trend of improvement in inspection outcomes.

2.7 As of February 2014, as well as the 445 (75.2%) good or outstanding schools in Kent, there are eight schools that are not reported in the figures as their reports are not yet published. Of the eight, five have been judged good and 3 outstanding. These inspections will further increase the number of good and outstanding schools overall. There is also a clear trend whereby the number of schools still requiring improvement is reducing. There are now 119 schools requiring improvement and the 8 inspections not counted in this figure as yet will further reduce this number. This is positive.

### 3. Requires Improvement to Good

3.1 The Local Authority's analysis and assessment of progress in all the schools that Require Improvement provides a useful projection forward to the next inspection outcomes. There is a good level of confidence that the majority of these schools are expected to achieve a good inspection outcome. The table below shows the breakdown of schools by district and their predicted date for moving to a judgement of good.

Area	District	No of RI schools			Good by July 2014		Good by July 2015		Good by July 2016		Good by July 2017	
		Total	LA	Academy	LA	Academy	LA	Academy	LA	Academy	LA	Academy
South	Ashford	8	7	1	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
South	Dover	6	5	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
South	Shepway	11	9	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	0
East	Canterbury	12	11	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
East	Swale	10	9	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
East	Thanet	8	5	3	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
West	Tonbridge & Malling	9	9	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	1	0
West	Maidstone	21	18	3	1	1	9	0	4	0	4	0
West	Tunbridge Wells	5	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North	Dartford	10	7	3	3	0	4	2	0	0	0	0
North	Gravesham	6	6	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
North	Sevenoaks	10	10	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Total number of schools</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Percentage of good or better schools</b>					79%		89%		91%		92%	
<b>Bold steps targets (percentage of schools judged by Ofsted as good or better)</b>					<b>74%</b>		<b>78%</b>		<b>82%</b>		<b>85%</b>	

#### **4. Ofsted Revised Inspection Guidance**

- 4.1 A further revised inspection guidance was introduced in January 2014 which emphasises the importance of inspectors judging the progress and attainments of pupils currently being educated in the school and giving this greater priority than the historical data for the schools. This is helpful and will better reflect the recent improvements being achieved in many schools. This gives greater confidence that most schools requiring improvement will have their recent progress better reflected in inspection judgements as we go forward.

#### **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The positive upward trend of improvement in the quality of education provided by Kent schools continues. The percentage of good and outstanding schools has improved from 70% in July 2013 to 75% in February 2014. There are now 119 schools requiring improvement, which will reduce with the publication of a further eight Ofsted inspection reports shortly, compared to 141 schools in July 2013. This is encouraging. There is a good level of confidence that further improvements will be achieved by the end of this school year in excess of the local authority's targets.
- 5.2 However, performance is still below the national average and there is a significant gap between the quality of Primary and Secondary schools overall. Not enough pupils attend good schools. The number of schools in an Ofsted category is a cause for concern. The work of the School Improvement Service is focused on addressing these challenges and improving the rates of progress in schools requiring improvement.

#### **6. Recommendation:**

The Education Cabinet Committee is invited to note the progress being achieved and comment on the information contained in this report.

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#### **Background Documents**

None