

Ratcliffe School Residential Care Ofsted report – 21-23 November 2017

Chair of Governor's Statement

As the newly appointed Chair of Governors, I would first of all like to thank Keith Hodgins for his leadership of the school over the past 6 months. He has been a dedicated Governor to the school for 12 years and his hard-work and commitment are fully recognised. We know Keith will keep a keen interest in the school as we move forward. We wish Keith every success in his future projects.

Our school's residential provision was subject to a very thorough Ofsted inspection on 21st to 23rd November 2017. Inspectors took a good deal of time to consider their judgement, which has now been published. Their report can be found on our school website dawlsh-ratcliffe.devon.sch.uk and on OFTSEDs website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. Ratcliffe School's residential care has been graded as '**requires improvement to be good**'. Ofsted recognise that leaders and managers have addressed the national minimum standards that were not met at the previous inspection.

Ofsted inspectors recognised the strengths of the residential care that we offer. They said that care provides improved opportunities for children through a massive range of activities, children benefit from the good opportunities for social skill and emotional development, children enjoy the time they spend here, and staff care about the children and have good relationships with them and therefore manage behaviour effectively. Children make good progress in developing practical skills for adult life and residential children have good opportunities to progress at school.

The overall judgement is disappointing, as we know the care team have worked exceptionally hard and made tremendous improvements against all Ofsted's previous recommendations. The Governors recognise that there is still some work to do but consider that the recommendations made can be implemented swiftly, indeed some have already been considered and actioned.

The Governors are committed to providing outstanding care for children at Ratcliffe School, fully supporting the Executive Principal and senior leadership team to deliver continued improvement and secure at least a good judgement at the next inspection.

We wish to thank all school staff for their continued work and dedication in providing excellent care and support for all our children.

Vicky Eul-Barker, Chair of Governors

3rd January 2018