

## Post Ofsted - FAQs

Question	Answer
Why was the School allowed to get into this Special Measures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The School faced a number of challenges:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Merger of two schools and two sites</li><li>○ Major budget pressures</li></ul></li><li>• The LA recognised it needed additional support and put in an additional experienced Deputy Head from September 2016, followed by an executive Headteacher from September 2017.</li><li>• A rescue package was put together over the Autumn term.</li><li>• The HT and Chair of Governors resigned.</li><li>• The School is now in very strong leadership and governance. Behaviour and the school are improving rapidly.</li></ul>
How can you ensure that this will not happen again?	<p>The LA is monitoring the School on a daily basis. It is reviewing leadership and management constantly and looking closely at Behaviour.</p> <p>The governing body has been replaced by a very high level Interim Executive Board (IEB), this is working very closely with the LA to keep a very close watch on the progress of the school in all matters.</p> <p>Ofsted inspectors will revisit the School again after a few months to check on progress as well.</p>
Are our children safe now?	<p>The Ofsted report was concerned about some aspect of safeguarding and those have all now been addressed.</p> <p>It also recognised that some children did not feel safe especially at breaks, much work is underway to increase staff patrols and ensure that all children feel safe at school at all times.</p> <p>The school is working hard to make sure that children are as safe in this school as at any school.</p>
Our children are being bullied what is being done about this?	<p>We have a zero tolerance to bullying and we wish to eradicate any form of bullying from Northallerton.</p> <p>We have increased teacher patrols.</p> <p>We have implemented a new behaviour policy.</p> <p>Any parent with any concerns at any time should come and see me (Keith Prytherch) straight away and I will look into the matter.</p>

Question	Answer
Do we have to become an academy?	Yes, it is the law, this school has been issued with a Direct Academy Order by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). However, both the LA and the school are working closely with the Department for Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner to identify a strong compatible local sponsor.
Which sponsor will it be?	We do not know yet but we have been working with the Regional Schools Commissioner and DfE to identify a strong local and compatible sponsor. The final decision will be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner.
You are all temporary. What about the long-term future of the School?	We have just made the appointment of a new principal for the school. The new Principal will start in post on 1st September 2018. The new Principal will be working closely with Keith Prytherch in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition and together they will make all the necessary other appointments to middle and senior leaders necessary for the school's future.
We have been complaining about this school for years and nothing happened.	The new leadership of the school have now heard the complaints and we wish to keep hearing the voice of parents and statements even if they are complaints. We are sorry that the school has not been responsive in the past we want to change this. Please give us a chance now to respond to your concerns, but we are still finding some that were made before the new head came into post. We are working fast and hard, but we know the school is not where it should be but we cannot change everything overnight. Please bear with us and thank you for your ongoing support, help and patience as we make Northallerton School a great school.
Why hasn't the Thursday evening revision class been on for Geography? My son in year 11 has been every week to find it's been cancelled all but twice since Christmas.	Yes this is quite true for a variety of reasons but the revision sessions are now on regularly every week.
Will parents have a chance to meet the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to put our points across on what is important to us regarding an academy?	It is up to the Regional Schools Commissioner but usually no. If you do continue to have concerns you should write to the RSC.

Question	Answer
<p>As a student at the college site, I find it far too crowded already even without the Year 7s. The corridors are very cramped and you constantly get hit around. There aren't enough seats at lunch either. How are you going to fix this?</p> <p>P.S. There might be the 'capacity' but that doesn't mean it's practical or enjoyable.</p>	<p>The experiences of students at lunch and break and on the corridors is a major concern for us now too.</p> <p>We are looking very carefully at all these areas.</p> <p>Movement in the corridors is something that can be streamlined, and we have done this in other schools to make them feel much better. It is done by how we manage the timetable so that they feel less crowded, and we are drawing up this plan now.</p> <p>To make sure that the whole situation at lunchtime improves is a major area of work too.</p> <p>New plans will be put in place so that it will be less crowded, we intend to split lunch into two, so half the school has one lunch break and the other half uses a different time. This is also something that is done in many other schools and works really well.</p> <p>Under these new plans there will be more seats at lunchtime because only half the students will be on their lunch break at the same time.</p>
<p>Does the school absolutely have to absorb three sites into one at the college, even when it is academised? Is it definite? And if so, could the day be staggered not just lunchtimes but start/end times, breaks, lesson change-overs etc., so there isn't overlap where all children are moving around at the same time. These are the hardest times for our son, though we are very pleased to hear class sizes will reduce next year.</p>	<p>We understand these concerns and we are now looking at them in great detail to finalise plans so that students do not feel crowded.</p> <p>We are looking at the accommodation in the short term and into the long term. Longer term plans for the sites have <u>not</u> been finalised.</p> <p>In the short term the decision to move to one site is based on both the needs of the school and finance. The main school site has previously had more students on it but the way it is currently managed means it feels much more crowded at times than it should.</p> <p>One way we will look at this will be that Lunch will be split. However, whilst lesson times will be the same we are looking at the way students move around the school and we will be developing plans to make the school operate much more smoothly and feel less crowded at these times.</p>
<p>I'm concerned that my daughter is being railroaded into the 'purple route' for GCSE choices based on lack of teachers, funding etc. and not on her educational needs.</p>	<p>The 'purple' or Ebacc route is what most students in England are encouraged to do. If any parent wants a personal conversation about changing then please contact us.</p>
<p>What can we do as parents and a community to help the school grow?</p>	<p>Promote all the good things we do, spread the word and support all the events. Thank you.</p>
<p>What about involving the kids in painting the school?</p>	<p>That's a great idea but Health and Safety rules prevent us from doing this....but we will be looking into improving the environment over the summer vacation.</p>
<p>In the bullying strategy you have mentioned are you considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer mentors from students</li> <li>• Parents input into the bullying strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, we are training some right now. Please do look at our policy, it is on our website. Let me know your thoughts.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>If we are holding children accountable for their behaviour are adults who have got the school into this situation being held to account or have they been allowed to leave and walk away from the school?</p>	<p>The staff who still work at the school are now being better led and managed. Where there are any staff that are not working appropriately, either leaders or teachers they will be held to account through the performance and disciplinary policies that the school operates.</p>
<p>What would happen if the number on roll went up dramatically once all children went onto one site? How would all pupils fit? Would the school regret the move?</p>	<p>The numbers of children currently in primary schools, down to Year 1, suggest this is not the case.</p>
<p>What will happen to the school site?</p>	<p>No decisions have been taken yet about the school site.</p>
<p>I think communication to parents is vital – we’re having issues with not receiving adequate information on sixth form work experience at present. Some parents are not even aware that work experience is happening</p>	<p>We will put in place a ‘Sixth Form News’ section in our weekly parents newsletter.</p>
<p>We hope your emphasis on behaviour and discipline continues – there are still too many younger pupils who think they can behave as they like. Our daughter (sixth form lunch monitor) has recently been spat at, sworn at, been pushed as well as seeing people steal from the canteen and yet they try to ‘get away with it’. On being challenged they still have an ‘attitude’. We would also wish to thank the teachers for the effort they put in – our daughter went from a level 3 in her maths mock to a level 5 in last summer’s GCSEs</p>	<p>It certainly will. The behaviour you describe is exactly why we have employed 12 midday supervisors.</p>
<p>I am concerned that my daughter has had a lot of supply teachers in both English and Maths. Will students that are in danger of not reaching their targets get moved into classes with permanent teachers as a priority?</p>	<p>We are trying our best to get permanent teachers for every class and we will put appropriate staff in front of all students: trying to be fair to all. We cannot promise but we are now prioritising the appointment of permanent staff.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>Lunchtime – how have you encouraged the children to go into the hall? My boys do not go as the queues are too big. If this is resolved how have you shared this with students?</p>	<p>In order to look into this I have started eating my lunch in the hall each lunchtime. I know that on most days the queue has gone at 12.50pm – they could walk straight in and have a good selection of food if they wish. There is still plenty of food left and a good range of choice. There is no need to queue at the start of lunch.</p>
<p>Homework – lack of and inconsistency from Year 8 to sons current Year 11.</p>	<p>High on our agenda to create greater consistency</p>
<p>You said there has been some improvements already on the ground. My boys were commenting that nothing seems to have changed. Have you sought pupil voice regarding the improvements/changes made?</p>	<p>Yes, we have spoken to the student leadership team and many staff take their views every day.</p>
<p>Please can we have details about Easter study by the end of this week – not just dates but information on staffing, topic/content of study etc. Also information on May half term if anything</p>	<p>They are spread across both weeks, mainly the second. The full list of events in on the website. May half term arrangements will be confirmed in May.</p>
<p>You identified raising parental confidence as a key issue. Your parental communication needs to really target this. We get dribs and drabs through diaries/ClassCharts but never truly know what homework is set or how we can help raise standards. Newsletters are formulaic, not inspiring at all. Easy to achieve!</p>	<p>We are continuing our drive towards great consistency in ClassCharts and we are, hopefully, creating better newsletters for parents. Also keep looking at our social media (facebook at twitter) and our new video blogs.</p>
<p>Year 10 student - open evening next week. Child asked teacher to fill in time. He wouldn't as he was not sure he wanted to see us – letter encouraged parents to meet all teachers – extremely cross about this</p>	<p>Thank you for the feedback. You do have an entitlement to see all teachers. If we need additional time to achieve this we will put it in.</p>
<p>Very concerned about bullying. Can you assure us there will be a zero tolerance on bullying?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Question	Answer
Are extra sessions going to be put on for Year 10? Are Easter sessions just for Yr11 and Yr13? Especially for English – daughter hasn't had consistent teacher - will need to catch up at some point?	We can only cater for those approaching public exams over the holiday period. Details on our website.
What are the guarantees that failures will be picked up quicker in the future?	Higher level of scrutiny and monitoring by a range of agencies on all aspects of the school.
Has 10 minutes been taken off lunch and if so why?	Yes – to give 10 minutes literacy time for all students
What are the pros and cons of being an academy?	This is a hugely complicated question and one which is best answered through a range of views. Best advice would be to 'google' the question