

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Special Measures



What does it mean to be placed into 'Special Measures'?

'Special Measures' is a term used by Ofsted, following inspections, and refers to the need for the school to receive additional, external support in order to secure the required improvements.

Schools that are placed in to 'Special Measures' are closely monitored by Ofsted usually by an allocated HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) to ensure that the school makes rapid improvements.

What do Ofsted say the school is doing well?

- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all students.
- The school provides a broad range of cultural, creative and sporting activities which take place outside of lessons.
- Students make good progress in Art, Dance and Drama because teaching is routinely good.
- Students respect each other and value differences.
- The school ensures that students are safe and looked after well with effective systems and procedures in place to safeguard students.
- Transition arrangements from Y6 to Y7 are effective.
- Careers education is effective with almost all students moving on to post-16 education, training or employment.
- Provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is effective and students are well prepared for life in modern Britain.
- Most students whom inspectors met during the inspection spoke positively about the school. They said that they are well supported and cared for by staff and would recommend the school to others.
- Most students and parents say that bullying is rare at the school. When bullying does take place, students say that they know how to report it and are confident it is dealt with effectively by school staff.
- Students regularly learn about fundamental British values and other faiths and cultures. They provided inspectors with effective examples to demonstrate how they value differences and respect views different from their own. Students are adamant that racism and homophobia have no place at the school.

- The school take seriously their responsibility for students' mental and physical health. Students' emotional well-being is in sharp focus.
- Leaders have acted effectively to improve the outcomes of students who follow alternative provision. The quality of these courses has improved because of the development of the school's own provision and the scrutiny provided by leaders.

What do Ofsted say the school needs to do to improve?

- Rapidly improve outcomes for all students, particularly those who are disadvantaged or have SEN and / or disabilities.
- Improve leadership and management of the school with leaders monitoring, assessing and refining improvement plans regularly and rigorously so that improvements are rapid and sustained.
- Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment by insisting that all teachers have the highest expectations of students and ensuring that students are routinely set work that closely matches their ability.
- Improving the attendance of all students, especially that of disadvantaged students
- Eliminating any poor behaviour in lessons and around school.
- Reducing the number of disadvantaged students who are excluded from the school.

What has been done already to work towards these improvements?

- The school has secured additional support from Chorlton High School and Piper Hill High School in order to support improvements in leadership and teaching and learning.
- A new Head of School has been appointed to strengthen the leadership of the school.
- A full staffing review and restructure has been completed and is in the process of being implemented across the school.
- An Interim Executive Board (IEB) will be established to oversee the governance of the school. The IEB is a group of experienced leaders in education who will work closely with the leadership of the school in order to challenge and support them in securing the required improvements.
- An external review of Teaching and Learning has already been carried out (April 2018) areas highlighted for improvement have been detailed in an action plan, the first stages of which are being implemented across the school.

What help will the school receive from outside agencies?

The school will work closely with Chorlton High School, Piper Hill High School, the Local Authority and the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Chorlton High School and Piper Hill High School, are both Teaching Schools and National Support Schools and have a proven track record of delivering sustained school improvement over time. Piper Hill High School is judged by Ofsted to be 'outstanding'. It has a great deal of experience in working with schools such as Newall Green High School and has a wealth of experience in improving the quality of teaching provision and significantly improving the quality of provision for children with Special Educational Needs.

What differences will my child notice?

The day to day operating structure of the school is unlikely to change in the short term. We will still expect children to arrive at school punctually and get to all their lessons on time and equipped ready to learn. However, in lessons students will notice increased levels of pace, challenge and demand. We will expect them to engage fully in their learning, working hard at all the challenges and tasks they are given. We will also expect students to be more focused on developing their literacy and oracy skills within a range of activities in the classroom.

Students may also see more visitors in classes and around school involved in scrutinising and evaluating teaching and learning. The impact of all the strategies that are being put in place is aimed at enhancing the quality of the educational provision students receive and improving outcomes for all our students.

What will parents/carers notice that is different?

The school will have a new group of governors [IEB] who will provide an enhanced level of challenge and support to the leadership of the school. The school will have regular monitoring visits from Ofsted and their findings will be shared with parents/carers.

There will be an increased focus on attendance and behaviour as we address some of the issues raised by the report.

We will also be asking all parents to support our drive to improve the literacy and oracy skills of all our students so they are able to access the new curriculum at an appropriate level.

What can parents/carers do to help?

Parents/carers can contribute by continuing to help and support their child in working hard at school and at home.

We would ask that all parents:

- Ensure that their child attends school on time every day.
- Ensure that their child is ready and fully equipped to attend school, dressed in full uniform, with pen pencil ruler, their exercise books and an appropriate school bag.
- Support their child by ensuring that they complete any homework / revision they need to complete.

- Take an active interest in what their child is learning about in school and celebrating the success and achievement with them.
- Regularly talk to their child about their future plans and emphasise that their choices for future careers will be much greater if they are successful in their studies at school.

By continuing to support the school's efforts parents/carers are contributing directly to improving outcomes. It will also be helpful for parents/carers to be positive with their children about what the school is doing and the steps being taken to secure improvements.

I am worried that in the last two years the school's results have gone down rather than up.

It is a huge disappointment to all involved with the school that, over the last two years, outcomes have not improved. With the help and support of our partners the school will be doing all it can to ensure improved outcomes this year and in the future. All involved are confident that, with the additional support provided by Piper Hill and Chorlton High School, the required improvements can, and will, be made.

Will the school receive more money for being placed in 'Special Measures'?

Not directly. However, it may be possible for bids to be made to the Department for Education on behalf of the school in order to secure funding to support improvement programmes.

How will the school come out of 'Special Measures'?

Over the coming months regular monitoring visits will take place conducted by a senior inspector, normally a HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector), who will consider the progress the school is making in addressing the areas for improvement. At some point in the future the school will again be fully inspected and a judgement made about provision and outcomes. If the required improvements have been made the school will no longer be subject to 'Special measures'.

Although the report was very disappointing the school is confident that the outlook for the future is very positive. The additional support and regular monitoring that will be provided will help to ensure that rapid progress will be made. All staff at the school are determined to do all they can to secure the required improvements.

It is important that parents continue to support the school in every way they can as the future success of the school is heavily reliant on a close and effective home/school partnership.

How often will the school be visited by inspectors in the future?

We anticipate inspectors visiting the school at least twice within each school year.

Will teachers leave? What is being done to recruit good teachers?

Every year some teachers leave the school for a variety of reasons. Teachers and Support Staff at Newall Green High School are committed to their job and are passionate about improving provision and outcomes for our students.

We do not anticipate that the school being placed in 'special measures' will have an impact on retaining our staff. The school will continue to pursue a proactive recruitment strategy aimed at securing the best teachers. Working closely with Chorlton High School we will be able to offer the very best induction and training for teachers new to the profession and those seeking to develop their career and broaden their experience.

I ask that parents continue to support the school in every way they can as the future success of the school is heavily reliant on a close and effective home/school partnership.