

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2009

PROGRESS REPORT ON HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Strategic Priority: Learning City

**Corporate Improvement Priority: Delivering Customer Focused Services,
Efficient and Effective Council**

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Committee on activity and progress at Hylton Red House Primary School that is subject to Special Measures through an Ofsted judgement.

2. Background

- 2.1 Hylton Red House Primary School has been in Special Measures since September 2008. With intensive support from the Local Authority through the School Improvement Service the quality of the curriculum provision offered to the pupils is continuing to improve following the third HMI report which regarded progress in the school to be satisfactory since the previous monitoring visit and the declaration of Special Measures.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The fourth monitoring inspection is now due.
- 3.2 The Interim Executive Board (IEB) has been acting in its agreed role since 1 September 2009. The school's newly substantive Headteacher took up his position at the school on 1 November 2009. The Headteacher and IEB have quickly grasped the issues relating to underachievement and are currently carrying out a range of activities to drive rapid improvements. These are having an immediate impact and are increasing staff morale and teamwork. The positive ethos of the school has been strengthened further by the substantive Headteacher and the IEB and this has led to staff increasing their commitment and productivity and is raising pupils' pride in and commitment to their school and its community. The IEB is bringing an increased level of challenge to the school. Each IEB member has a detailed work plan to ensure that all areas of scrutiny are covered. Their work with the senior leadership team has given strategic direction and has brought about improvements in the way roles and responsibilities are carried out.
- 3.3 The 2009 Key Stage 2 results in mathematics were disappointing and as a result the targets for two levels progress in mathematics and for

English and mathematics combined were not met. Whilst attainment remains low pupils in the immediate past can be seen to be making more progress than before. However the overall rate of progress may still be challenged by HMI. Teachers are increasingly embedding learning in first-hand experience and this is leading to pupils being more interested and engaged. They are retaining their learning because they are having increasing opportunities to apply it. The school's accountability structure for pupil progress tracks individual pupil progress and the performance of groups of pupils. Timely intervention is provided for pupils who need it. The Headteacher acknowledges that the pace of curriculum reform needs to increase so additional planning to do this has been put in place.

- 3.4 Five members of staff left the school at the end of the summer term 2009. Three teachers retired, two of these through voluntary redundancy and two teachers resigned their posts. The level of staff absence in the school has reduced significantly during the autumn term 2009.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Local Authority continues to use all the means at its disposal to address issues in the school and lead the school out of the category of Special Measures

Contact Officer: Margaret Ferrie
Chief Inspector of Schools
0191 561 5613
margaret.ferrie@sunderland.gov.uk