

School on road to recovery



MAKING PROGRESS: Dashwood School joint headteachers Vikki McLean and Louise McGinty with Bob Wintringham, chairman of the interim executive board, and celebrating pupils 081210J-C064.JPG

A PRIMARY school placed under special measures following a poor Ofsted report has impressed inspectors with its improvements.

In January, Dashwood School was described as “inadequate” and “failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education”.

However, less than a year later the school has made ‘good’ or ‘satisfactory’ progress in improving standards across a range of areas.

Bob Wintringham, chairman of the interim executive board that has replaced the governing body, said he hoped the report was the first step to getting the school out of special measures.

He said: “We are really pleased with the efforts the school has put in; there is a real commitment to get Dashwood out of special measures.

“We are making sure we are doing everything we can to raise the achievements. Our main concern is for the children and giving them the best possible education.”

Dashwood School was placed

under special measures following an inspection by the Government’s education officials in November last year.

It was told it would receive support from the local education authority while undergoing more regular, intense inspections, such as the one conducted last month.

Since then, the school has made a number of changes including relocating from Marlborough Place to new facilities in Merton Street.

It is now fully staffed and has introduced two new acting headteachers – Louise McGinty and Vikki McLean – who were reported as having a “good impact on the school”.

The inspection graded the school as satisfactory in the majority of areas, including improving pupils’ attitudes and behaviour, which was described as “impeccable” during a silence for Remembrance Day.

The school was also deemed satisfactory in increasing the proportion of good or better teaching.

A health and safety audit was

ranked as good, although the achievement of all pupils was recorded as inadequate.

Mr Wintringham said: “We recognise we have still got some work to do but we are going to continue down the same path.

“We need to make sure all of the effort with the children is turned into results which show we are achieving back in line with the national average, which we are confident of doing.”

Cllr Michael Waine, Oxfordshire County Council’s cabinet member for schools improvement, said: “This report is very encouraging and shows the new leadership team’s commitment to getting the school out of special measures and to ensuring the children get the very best from their time at school.”

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