

**As parents of children attending Spittal VC Primary School we are petitioning under section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 to hold a formal meeting (meeting number 1 of 3) with the Governing Body of Spittal VC Primary School to raise the following points;**

1. Given that the parents have now had sight of the Categorisation Report from ERW for Spittal VC Primary School can the Governing Body assure the parents that Spittal VC Primary School is in a position to move forward and what is being done to achieve this? We ask this because Spittal VC Primary School was previously in a position to move from a 'yellow' to 'green' category and within twelve months we have now moved down *two* categories from an 'yellow' to 'red' category. This is a huge concern as it has happened within such a short space of time with no forewarning. What has caused this sudden decline as the Teaching cohort has remained relatively unchanged as has the Governing Body. We would politely ask that the Governing Body respond.
  - 1.1 In relation to point 2 we also understand that the Governing Body were made aware of the 'red' categorisation in November 2018 and chose not to challenge it. We politely ask why the Governing Body did not challenge this decision and ask you to inform us of what steps have already been taken and what measures have been put in place to address and remedy the weaknesses identified, particularly as the overarching weakness relates to poor performance by senior management within the school and this managed structure prevails at the current time. We ask this as the 'D' rating show very little prospect of remedying the defects. We ask the Governing Body to respond and inform the parents of the proposed path going forward for Spittal VC Primary School.
2. We would like to raise our concerns about the management, competency, capability and organisational culture of Spittal VC Primary School, this is due to the visible low morale of the teaching staff we can see on a daily basis as parents. Organisational culture is set from the top and is fed throughout the whole school and indeed is heavily criticized throughout the ERW report. Ultimately the teaching staff are responsible for the daily care of our children and we want to ensure their wellbeing is looked after. We would like to ask the Governing Body what is being done to gauge the morale and welfare of the staff to ensure that they all feel appropriately supported and in a position to deliver the support plan, particularly given the responsibility of the Governing Body for the wellbeing of staff. We ask the Governing Body to respond and inform us of what action will be taken and politely ask if the governing body share this view.
3. We would like to raise our concerns about the communication within school, as it appears to parents that there is a lack of communication from management to staff and an overwhelming lack of transparency and a missed opportunity to work with parents for the benefit of the school. We politely ask that the Governing Body to respond and take action and also ask if you share this view.
  - 3.1 We are also concerned about the communication between school and parents. At times parents are informed about various things at the last minute and do not feel we are being kept up-to-date about formal issues affecting both our children and their school. The Class DoJo app and text messaging service was introduced at Spittal School as communication tools however they are not being utilised. We would like the Governing Body to respond and take action.
4. We would like to highlight our concerns as parents that the majority of our children are being taught in split Teacher classrooms and whilst we understand this is not uncommon and that there is nothing inherently wrong with this arrangement the issues we are concerned about are within one particular class; class 1. We are concerned about the consistency and the quality of teaching and the impact that is having on the children's education and wellbeing. We appreciate that Teachers in management positions have several roles within a school, however this is indeed a concern when a particular class is having several different Teachers teaching within the course of a week as other duties appear to be put before the teaching element. How has this situation been allowed to happen and how will the Governing Body take action? We politely ask if the Governors share this view, as the parents view in this respect is validated by the ERW report.
5. We would like to politely request to see the development plan for Spittal School, including the new curriculum for us to understand the future plans to ensure future achievements and positive outcomes for our children. Can the Governing Body assure the parents that this will happen and can they provide a timescale for parents to see the plans?
6. We would like to highlight our concerns about the follow-up of individual pupil issues which at times are significant in

nature and relate to the wellbeing and development of that child. Parents are overwhelmingly concerned that issues are raised and initially listened to by the management of the school however support mechanisms are not put into place or practice and not acted upon or followed up as methods of support by the management. We would like the Governing Body to discuss the lack of formal structure for this and put one in place which is adhered to. The inability of the management to deal with these issues could have serious ramifications.

7. The parents consider that they are best placed to support the school where there is a genuine openness and transparency. The parents would like to support a visible Governing Body, and as a move towards this, we invite the Governing Body to a meeting of the parents in order for the parents to explain current issues and concerns which can be worked on *together*. A suggestion would be that a parent forum is established to meet with governing body on a termly basis; what are the Governing Bodies' thoughts about this and would you be willing to attend a separate more informal parent meeting within the next 7 days?

*Thank you for taking the time to read our petition we look forward to meeting with the Governing Body to discuss the above concerns.*

**I the undersigned agree that I have read points 1 to 7 (on pages 1 & 2) of this petition and am in agreement with all the points raised.**