

Statement of Sunrise Management Committee in response to the Ofsted Report for 2-4 October 2018 Inspection

As is clear from the attached Ofsted report, Ofsted have found the Sunrise school wanting when judged by Ofsted's criteria.

The first Full Inspection in July 2017 found us inadequate in many areas largely due to lack of documentation and a different style of operation. We accept that there were many ways in which we needed to improve then and will still always look to better our teaching and procedures to benefit the children attending our school. This most recent report still finds weakness in three areas: Teaching, governance and attendance.

At no time were any children at risk and in fact we have always been found to be robust in furthering the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Curriculum & learning: Our Curriculum policy in 2017 stated that we would follow the National Curriculum for each subject. We have since revised our policy to reflect our personalised approach, focussing on child-led learning in order to build confidence and self-esteem. This also means that we do not always fulfil the strict deadlines for learning laid down in the National Curriculum and the Early Years Framework Strategy. We have revised our schemes of work and introduced a form of assessment to help planning and document progress. This is taking time to embed – too long for Ofsted. We are implementing a range of improvements and training for our Early Years team.

Attendance: National policy is that a school should have a minimum of 96% attendance. A percentage is a blunt tool which does not take into account that if a class is only 5 pupils, absence of just one single pupil means attendance on that day is 80%. Our school is also a rare thing where we welcome and accommodate part time children who are also home schooled. This also leads to differences in attendance and differences in how far the child has covered the National Curriculum. We welcome these differences and believe in accommodating differing rates of learning.

Unfortunately on the day of the inspection – a snapshot of one day – 3 children were late which is very unusual.

Governance: Sunrise has a Management Committee which includes the Head Teacher (as is usual). Where any school fail any of the standards, the leadership standard is automatically failed. We accept that we need to do better. We are reviewing how the Committee works and will elect a new Chair. We have one current parent on the committee and would welcome more parents onto the committee.

It is inevitable that a clash of cultures would occur, but we are working as hard as we can to resolve all these matters and have already put a whole raft of measures in place in response.

Our Strengths: Hardworking and loving teachers and staff, affectionate relationships between teachers and children, positive relationships with parents/carers who are overwhelmingly supportive, well behaved, polite pupils who are caring and helpful to each other, personalised learning with a holistic emphasis on social and moral issues including conflict resolution.