

Oak Farm Junior School
Response to Ofsted report

Dear Parents

While Oak Farm Junior School accepts the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection and fully concurs with all the positive comments about the school that are made within it, we believe that as a Junior school we are at a distinct disadvantage, given the current framework of inspection. This framework judges junior schools in the same way that Primary schools are inspected.

Children continue to leave Oak Farm Junior School with attainment well above the national average as can be seen in the table below (**Fig. 1**). However, there is an increased focus on progress that the children make and as a junior school, this is notoriously difficult to achieve. (see **Fig. 2**)

Fig. 1:

Oak Farm Junior School SAT results May 2017

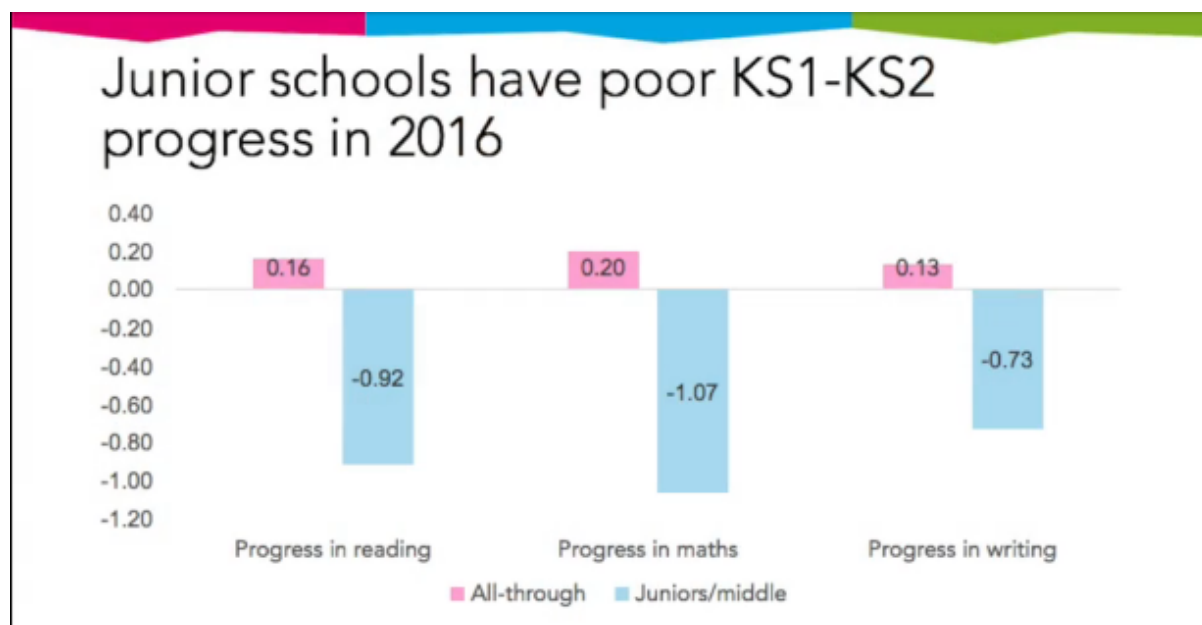
(Please note that all results are above national with some significantly above)

Subject		Oak Farm Junior School	Hillingdon Local Authority	National
Reading	Achieved Expected Standard	77%	70.8%	71%
	Achieved Higher Standard	30%	23.3%	25%
	Average Scaled Scores	105	104	104
Maths	Achieved Expected Standard	85%	78.8%	75%
	Achieved Higher Standard	38%	28.8%	23%
	Average Scaled Scores	107	105	104
Writing (Teacher Assessed)	Achieved Expected Standard	81%	77%	76%
	Achieved Higher Standard	15%	18%	18%
R/W/M Combined	Achieved Expected Standard	72%	62%	61%
	Achieved Higher Standard	9%	10%	9%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Achieved Expected Standard	84%	82%	77%
	Achieved Higher Standard	41%	40%	31%
	Average Scaled Scores	107	108	106

Fig 2

Impact on Junior schools nationally due to current inspection framework.

JUSCO (a national Junior Schools' group concerned with the impact on Junior Schools by the current progress inspection framework) has produced data, based on national outcomes, that identifies how junior schools are at a clear disadvantage compared to primary schools when applying the current inspection framework (See data table below)



The data above clearly identifies the challenge facing all Junior Schools, especially when the infant School concerned has progress at KS1 that is above national over time, as is the case with Oak Farm Infant school.

The concerns regarding Junior Schools progress were further highlighted in a recent Ofsted document.

(School Inspection Update September 2017 Issue 11)

Teacher assessments: treat with caution

Inspectors should also be aware of potential issues with the reliability of key stage 1 teacher assessments. We know from national data that pupils at junior schools, on average, have higher attainment scores at the end of key stage 2 than pupils at all other primary schools. However, they also have lower progress scores. This suggests that there may be an issue with the key stage 1 prior attainment scores that are used as a baseline. Inspectors should be aware of this when using and interpreting data for different school types.

Sean Harford HMI National Director, Education

Oak Farm Junior School comments on the inspection framework

- Oak Farm Junior School was the first school in this authority to face the new, more rigorous Section 5 inspection.
- The inspection was based purely on progress data and this identified that the Junior School, while improving its attainment significantly over time is still below national average progress measures.
- It is for this reason that the school has in recent years focussed on individual pupil progress rather than progress of groups, because our challenge is to get every single child in school to make as much progress as possible from their end of KS1 outcomes.
- It is also worth noting that, with the exception of writing, results at the end of KS2 are based on externally marked testing rather than teacher assessment, whereas the KS1 results are all based on teacher assessment.

Finally

Oak Farm Junior School, governors and staff know that school progress and outcomes from its own Year 3 baseline testing to the end of KS2 in Year 6 are good and that the school provides a high standard of education. As the Ofsted inspectors acknowledged, the staff and children at Oak Farm are very proud of their school and we will all continue to work tirelessly to improve outcomes for all children as we continue to deliver a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum, giving every child the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Mr A Mills

Head teacher