

The John Roan School - FAQs

1. The school was inspected in March 2018. Why are we only being told of the outcome now in June?

The school was informed by Ofsted that there would be a lengthy quality assurance process prior to the publication of the report. The process has to be robust when a judgement of Inadequate is going to be made. During this period, the school is not legally allowed to comment on the outcome of Ofsted's inspection.

It is important to note that the school and Local Authority have been working together to ensure improvement actions are taking place since Cath Smith took over as the Executive Headteacher of the school in February 2018. Many of the improvements were noted by Ofsted but there had not been enough time for significant impact of these improvements to be seen.

2. The school has been judged to be Inadequate with serious weaknesses. What does this mean?

If inspectors judge a school to be Inadequate, it will be placed in one of the following two categories of concern:

- Special measures – This means the school is failing to provide its pupils with an acceptable standard of education, and is not showing the capacity to make the improvements needed.
- Serious weaknesses – This means that one or more of the key areas of the school's performance require significant improvement, but leaders and managers have demonstrated the capacity to improve.

The John Roan has been adjudged to be the latter, and it is therefore important to note that inspectors have faith in the current leadership to be able to rapidly improve the areas that they have highlighted.

In time, between the inspection taking place and the publication of the report, an Improvement Plan has been agreed to address all areas requiring development and this is already in the process of being implemented.

3. What will the school be expected to do now?

Inadequate rated schools must produce an Improvement Plan which addresses all the areas of concern raised by the inspectors. As soon as Cath Smith became Executive Headteacher she introduced an Improvement Plan that was shared with all staff and Governors and has already led to the improvements noted by Ofsted. This plan has been revised, with reference to the Ofsted report, and the improvements to learning and teaching, assessment and behaviour are continuing.

4. What is the school doing to address immediately Ofsted's recommendations?

Cath Smith officially began as Executive Headteacher just weeks before the Ofsted inspectors visited the school, but she had already introduced an Improvement Plan. The progress made is evident and praised in the report, and work has continued to ensure these initial improvements are further embedded throughout the school. Subsequent to Ofsted's inspection, a working group has been established to review the behaviour policy and enact changes where required. On top of this, staff have commenced a training programme that will empower them with the skills to adequately track student progress and consistently

assign appropriate tasks. Further improvements will be seen in the coming weeks and months.

5. Will parents be kept informed about the school's improvement?

Yes. The John Roan believes a strong relationship with parents is of paramount importance and that the foundation of this is strong communication. Updates relating to school improvement will be provided consistently so that everyone is kept abreast of the school's continuing progress.

6. As the school has been judged to be Inadequate does it mean it will now become an academy?

A maintained school judged as Inadequate and placed in a category of concern will be issued with an Academy Order by the Secretary of State for Education, to require it to become a new sponsored academy. This is a legal requirement that the Secretary of State must undertake.

7. Is the school able to challenge the judgement?

The school is not able to challenge the judgement. It has been based on the academic outcomes of pupils over the last few years and what the five inspectors saw during the two days they were in the school and their discussion with teachers, pupils, governors and the Local Authority. The school was only able to challenge on aspects of accuracy, such as names, titles etc.

8. If the school is to become an academy when might this happen?

It is likely that the Academy Order will be issued within 10 days of the report being published on the Ofsted website. Following that, the average length of time for the school to become an academy is between six to nine months. It can be quicker if there are no legal or financial complications and that a sponsor (Academy Group) comes forward who is willing to take the school on. The Regional Schools Commissioner has a duty to ensure that the school becomes a sponsored academy as swiftly as possible.

9. How will the sponsor (Academy Group) be chosen?

The Regional Schools Commissioner, who acts on behalf of the Secretary of State, will make the final decision as to who the sponsor will be. The sponsor will need to be able to demonstrate that they have the capacity to support The John Roan School on its improvement journey and a proven track record of how a school can make rapid improvement. The Regional Schools Commissioner will broker this new relationship.

10. Will parents be consulted as to whether they want the school to become an academy?

No. Once an Academy Order is issued the process towards the school becoming an academy will begin and this is managed by the Regional Schools Commissioners office. The Council is in discussion with the Commissioner regarding the decision that is to be made.