PLEASE INSERT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

CONTACT EMAIL

Date: July 2019

Rt Hon Damien Hinds MP

Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Building

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London    SW1P 3BT

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Rt Hon Robert Halfon

Chair of Education Select Committee

House of Commons

London  SW1A 0AA

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Dear Mr Hinds & Mr Halfon

**Ofsted Inspections – lack of accountability**

As a parent of a pupil at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School in Ellesmere Port, I am writing to express my concern at the apparent lack of accountability for school Ofsted inspections. EPCHS had a Section 5 inspection in March which placed the school as Inadequate. However based on evidence and comparisons to other schools' data who have been inspected recently and been judged as Good, it is a very harsh and inconsistent judgement.

Our school has had three peer reviews from a Catholic Teaching Alliance and all 8 schools agreed with the school’s own self-evaluation for Teaching, learning and Assessment, Personal Development and Welfare, Curriculum and Leadership and Management as a grading of Good. Local Authority advisors and Diocesan advisors have also reviewed as Good.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors made a formal complaint about the judgement and the conduct of the inspectors and met with Andrew Cook the Northwest Ofsted Lead to express their concerns. The complaint outcome resulted in the judgement of Inadequate being upheld. Therefore, school has been given an Academisation Order which as a parent, I am not happy with and feel that this is the reason for being put into special measures.

Two weeks after the report was published in June 2019, school received a two day Monitoring visit which confirmed that school have taken “effective action towards the removal of special measures”. This raises questions as to how school can have made such an improvement in a short time when the majority of staff and parents did not know the content of the original report?

I am concerned by the fact that Ofsted is a self-policing body, who act without accountability. There is seemingly no way I can raise my concerns directly. Justin Madders our local MP has been very supportive and met with a number of parents to hear our views. Mr Madders agreed that given the evidence available and failing of the inspection to be conducted fairly, he would write again to the Secretary of State for Education and would also request a debate in the House of Commons.   Due to the summer recess, expectation is that nothing will happen until at least September and is subject to Parliamentary process.

As a parent, I am of the opinion that based on evidence, my opinion and my child’s experience of school that the judgement of Inadequate is incorrect and unjust.

I would like accountability for Ofsted to be reviewed.

Yours sincerely

NAME

Parent