

Melksham Oak Community School

raising aspirations, learning for life, success for all



February 2018



Dear Parent /Guardian,

I am writing to you to explain the changes that have just been made to how pupils' target grades are set at Melksham Oak.

Up until now, we have set highly aspirational target grades, known as Minimum Progress Grades (MPGs), which if achieved, would place pupils significantly above the national average for progress. This system was introduced in 2012, and was based solely on pupils' scores from the KS2 SATS tests in English and Maths. Under this system, we have seen a significant rise in progress and attainment figures - our pupil progress score has been above the national average in five of the last six years, and every year for the last four.

However, in order to comply with target setting processes across The White Horse Federation's secondary schools, we have been asked to change from this method to one which uses estimates of pupil attainment as set by a national organisation called the Fischer Family Trust (FFT). The grades given to us by the FFT provide us with the information from which we are from now to set targets, and are calculated by them based on a range of factors and contexts.

While these new targets remain aspirational - if all pupils achieved their new targets, the school would be in the top 5% for progress for schools like us nationally - there are a large number of pupils for whom new target grades are lower than their previous ones as set by us. That is why we are continuing to use the phrase Minimum Progress Grade as it is crucial that all pupils, whatever their new MPGs, see these grades as 'floors' from which to progress even further, not 'ceilings' of attainment. We will continue as always to work tirelessly with all pupils to help them attain the very highest possible grades in all subjects. New MPGs have now been set this week for all pupils and the next reports that you receive from us later in the year will compare teachers' predictions to these new MPGs.

I hope that this provides an explanation of these changes. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Owen Vince
Deputy Headteacher

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Top 20% nationally 2013

