

MEDIA RELEASE FROM STEINER ACADEMY EXETER TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2018

Steiner Academy Exeter to consult on future of its Kindergarten

The Steiner Academy Exeter will be undertaking a consultation next year into the future of its Kindergarten as part of its ongoing drive for improvement following its latest Ofsted report.

The Kindergarten will open as usual until the end of this term (Friday, 21st December, 2018) but will not immediately re-open with the rest of the school in the new year.

Paul Jones, the new chairman of the Academy Management Committee, made the announcement to staff and parents on Monday (17th December 2018).

His letter to parents said: “As you may recall, in its latest inspection Ofsted raised significant concerns about the safety and welfare of pupils in the Kindergarten, and steps have been taken to address these concerns.

“While we have seen progress in recent weeks, sustainable improvements in safeguarding are required at Kindergarten, and more needs to be done to address historic cultural and systemic issues.

“In the new year we will start a formal consultation to consider how Kindergarten can reopen safely. I will write to you again in January with more details of this four-week consultation and how you can be involved.

“We are liaising closely with Devon County Council in this matter, and are offering support and guidance to the parents of children directly affected by this temporary closure.

“Staff at the Kindergarten will be redeployed in the Lower School, as well as playing a full part in the consultation.”

Mr Jones was appointed as the chairman of the new Academy Management Committee following an Ofsted inspection in October this year which highlighted serious inadequacies in leadership, quality of teaching and safeguarding.

At the same time, Paul Hougham was recruited as the Academy’s Acting Principal.

Mr Jones added: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank Acting Principal Paul Hougham and his new leadership team for their tenacity, thoroughness and commitment to excellence as they work to ensure that the Steiner Academy Exeter provides a safe and effective educational environment for all our children.”

The Academy has also approached the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to discuss the ongoing financial stability of the school as a whole, and is working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner as it seeks an existing multi-academy trust which would be interested in adopting the school.

The approach to the ESFA follows an increase in costs as the school has appointed additional support and sought external supervision to tackle the concerns raised by Ofsted.

Ends

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