

19 November 2010

Dear Students

Inspection of The Eltham Foundation School, Eltham SE9 5EQ

Thank you for making the inspectors welcome and also for speaking so well to us about your views on a range of school matters. We were impressed by how you wanted the school to be good and took a careful note of those things you thought would make the school better. We also took into account the views of your teachers, particularly those who help to lead the school.

The Eltham Foundation has some positive features but also some very important shortcomings. The school provides you with satisfactory care, guidance and support and we are pleased to say that your sports activities help you to achieve good results in these areas and stay healthy. We agree about the need for more engaging and interactive lessons which would reduce chatting and involve you all more in the lesson activities. We also noted that too many of you do not make as much progress as you should and that examination results are too low. This is partly because too many of you do not attend school regularly enough, or turn up late to lessons.

There have been too many changes of headteacher which have slowed the pace of improvement since the last inspection. We think the governors could have pressed more forcefully for better leadership to make improvement happen quickly.

We have judged that the school requires 'special measures'; this means the school will get help to improve more quickly. Inspectors will visit every few months to see how the school is getting on. They will want to check with you about how things are going, especially after your new headteacher arrives in January. In particular they will want to know how well you attend, how well you enjoy your lessons and how well your teachers know you are making better progress. You can all help by ensuring you attend more regularly and make every effort to help teachers help you to succeed.

Yours sincerely

Peter Limm
Her Majesty's Inspector