

Reading Early Years Schools Federation

A federation of Blagdon, Caversham and New Bridge Nursery Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Joanne Budge BEd (Hons) MA



24th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you're now aware of the tragic death of our much respected colleague Headteacher, Ruth Perry. Ruth was a well regarded member of the Reading school community and her sudden death has had a huge impact on us and many others on a personal level.

Please be aware however, that whilst we will have all statutory items available on the school websites, we will have no further references to Ofsted visible. We are doing this as a sign of solidarity to Ruth, her family, her friends and the community of Caversham Primary.

Reading Heads are campaigning for changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework. Whilst we agree there is a need for accountability to ensure that children and young people receive the education they so richly deserve in a safe, happy and stimulating learning environment, this must be in conjunction with a process of support for Headteachers and school staff that strive every day to do their very best. We are seeking:

- A suspension of all inspections whilst there is an urgent review of the implementation of the current Ofsted framework and the impact of its processes.
- An immediate suspension of '**the effectiveness of safeguarding**' being a limiting judgement for the overall effectiveness of the school and also the judgement on leadership and management.
- The removal of the headline grading system currently used.
- A collegiate approach to the development of the new school improvement framework.
- The development of a programme of support for all headteachers, which they can access to provide supervision, counselling and advice.
- The expectation that headteachers can share concerns and worries regarding the inspection process with their staff and peers. Ruth could not speak to her friends and colleagues and this led to her feeling of isolation, which eventually led to her death.

Our letter is attached for your awareness. As parents, you are encouraged to share your own opinions with Ofsted. Please also consider adding your name to the petition to 'Grant an inquiry of the Ofsted inspection at Caversham Primary School': <https://www.change.org/p/grant-an-inquiry-of-the-ofsted-inspection-at-caversham-primary-school>

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joanne Budge'.

Joanne Budge
Executive Headteacher
REYS Federation