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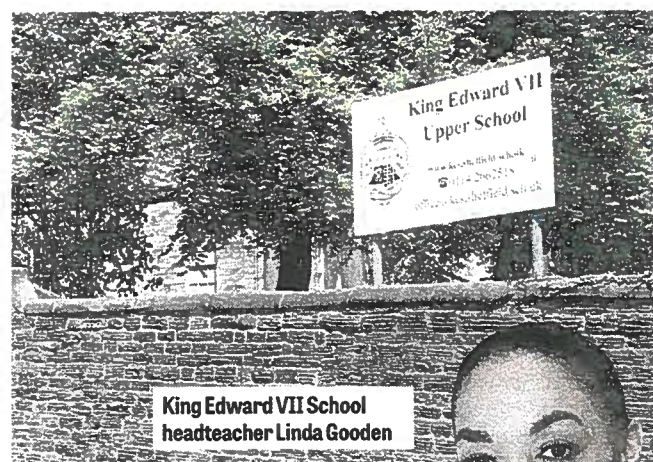
SHEFFIELD

# TELEGRAPH

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## 'Our children are safe, happy and thrive'

- » Parents rally to support school rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted
- » Row as secondary set to be forced to join multi-academy trust



King Edward VII School headteacher Linda Gooden



Full story: Pages 4-5

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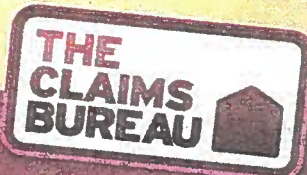
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## NEWS

# School rated inadequate amid concern over safety

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A secondary school in Sheffield has been rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted inspectors, who voiced concerns about bullying and safeguarding measures.

King Edward VII School, which has sites in Broomhill and Crosspool, was inspected by Ofsted on September 27 last year following what the education watchdog described as a 'number of complaints...that raised serious concerns'.

The report graded the school 'inadequate' for overall effectiveness.

It was judged to be 'good' in three of the five criteria for which it was assessed - behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and sixth-form provision - but inspectors found the quality of education 'requires improvement' and the leadership and management was 'inadequate'.

When the school was last inspected in 2018, it was deemed to be 'good', which is the second highest of the four grades available.

Inspectors said in the lat-

est report that safeguarding policies at King Edward VII were not consistently applied, which meant children 'may be at risk of harm'.

They highlighted concerns in particular about gaps in the risk assessment concerning pupils' 'movement on and off the upper school site at dinner time'.

Inspectors stated: "Leaders at King Edward VII school do not do enough to keep children safe."

A significant minority of pupils do not feel that they have an adult to speak to. Some pupils would not pass on concerns about bullying.

While school records show that bullying is not frequent, leaders do not encourage pupils effectively to speak to an adult if they are worried about something."

The report also refers to a 'serious safeguarding incident' at the school and says leaders there failed to take appropriate action to learn from mistakes after this happened.

It does not give any details about what this incident was or when it occurred.

Inspectors state: "Leaders' actions around the safeguarding of pupils lack rigour."

"They do not thoroughly

check that staff remember important safeguarding updates.

"As a result, some staff have a too casual attitude to their responsibilities around safeguarding."

"Sometimes, staff do not pass on safeguarding concerns to appropriate staff in the school. This puts children at risk."

Despite the disappointing overall rating, several parts of the report do make positive reading.

Inspectors found that most pupils were happy, they 'relate well to each other' and there is a 'respectful atmosphere'.

They described students' behaviour as a 'strength of the school', called the sixth-form 'thriving' and said an 'ambitious curriculum is planned for all'.

Inspectors also said that pupils enjoy their lessons because they are taught by 'passionate, engaging and expert teachers', though they labelled as 'inconsistent' students' recall of important information they are taught.

The school is likely to be issued with an academy order and become a sponsored academy.



Bullying concerns at King Edward VII School on Glossop Road were raised by Ofsted inspectors

## Plea over academy move

**Robert Cumber**  
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A historic Sheffield secondary school says it will be 'forced' to convert to an academy after being rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted.

But King Edward VII School, which has sites in Broomhill and Crosspool, has told parents it hopes the Department for Education and Sheffield Council will work in partnership with school leaders and the governing board 'in the best interests of the school' during this process.

A letter to parents jointly signed by headteacher Linda Gooden and Peter Dickson, chair of the governing board, states that the 'inadequate' rating for overall effective-

ness in the Ofsted report 'means that King Edward VII School will be forced to convert to an academy and join a multi academy trust (MAT) by the Department for Education (DfE)'.

The letter continues: "The Interim Regional Director, on behalf of the DfE, will identify sponsors for the school and will work with the local authority on this. School leaders and the governing board will not be part of this decision making process."

"It is hoped that the DfE and local authority will work in partnership with school leaders and the governing board in the best interests of the school. This request has been made to the local authority."

Ofsted inspectors voiced concerns in their report

about safeguarding there, which they said meant children 'may be at risk of harm'.

They also stated that although 'school records show that bullying is not frequent', a 'significant minority' of pupils felt they did not have an adult to speak to and some pupils 'would not pass on concerns about bullying'.

The school's latest letter to parents states how it had contested a 'number' of the judgements but says Ofsted refused to reconsider those judgements or re-inspect the school.

The letter states that school leaders, governors and staff are all 'profoundly disappointed' with the overall rating.

The school has drawn up an action plan to address the areas for improvement.



King Edward VII School headteacher Linda Gooden

NEWS



King Edward VII School has shared messages of support from parents

# Backing for school team

**Robert Cumber**  
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A number of parents have spoken out against a Sheffield secondary school's 'inadequate' Ofsted rating, saying it 'does not reflect the school we know'.

King Edward VII School, which has sites in Broomhill and Crosspool, was downgraded by the education watchdog from 'good' to 'inadequate', which it says means it will now be forced by the Department for Education to convert to an academy and join a multi academy trust.

The school, the city's only remaining local authority-maintained secondary, said it was 'completely shocked' by a number of the judgements made by Ofsted inspectors, which it had attempted unsuccessfully to contest.

Inspectors voiced concerns about safeguarding, which it is understood relate to upper school pupils being allowed to leave the grounds at lunchtime, and about bullying, saying a 'significant minority' of pupils would 'hesitate to pass on concerns about bullying'.

The school has now

shared some messages of support it has received from parents, while one parent has contacted The Telegraph directly to say she is 'devastated' about the report and what it means for the school.

The school said one parent, whose views it said were echoed by many others, had told it: "The Ofsted report does not reflect the school we know, value and trust."

"Our children and young people are safe in this school. Our children and young people are happy and thrive in King Edward VII School."

Another parent, it said, had messaged to say: "We have confidence in the school, its leaders and staff. We do not recognise the school portrayed in the Ofsted report."

Other comments it shared included one from a parent with three children at the school, who called it an 'outstanding school', adding 'there is no other school in the city I would want my children to be'.

Another parent, it said, had messaged to 'offer my overwhelming support and appreciation for KES and its amazing staff', while a third reportedly said 'your senior leadership team, the teach-

ing and support staff and the board of governors continue to have my full confidence and support'.

One parent who asked not to be named, contacted The Telegraph directly to say: "I was devastated to hear the news about King Edwards. The school has a long history in our community."

"The thought that people who don't fully understand what makes the school tick will be responsible for deciding its future is terrifying."

"Though my work I know just how differently some schools are run. As parents we are told we have choice in education, but today that promise feels like a lie."

Ofsted's website states when a local authority-maintained school in England is rated 'inadequate' it is issued by the Education Secretary with an academy order and will then become a sponsored academy. Ofsted adds: "We will not usually monitor the school unless there are safeguarding concerns or there is a delay in the school becoming a sponsored academy."

The Department for Education and Sheffield Council have been contacted to ask what happens next.

# MP demands government strips rail firm of contract

A Sheffield MP has called for the Transport Secretary to 'wake up and put passengers and the public first' by withdrawing the contract for rail operator TransPennine Express.

The news comes as South Yorkshire council leaders have agreed a £1.1m increase in spending to help shore up public transport services.

Sheffield Heeley MP and Labour's shadow transport minister Louise Haigh pointed to service cancellations by the operator causing widespread disruption.

She said in two days last week almost 200 train services were cancelled by TransPennine Express, leaving passengers stranded across the North.

These failures by the company and the government's inability to get a grip on the situation is failing passengers and causing huge disruption for people and regional economies.

Ms Haigh warned trans-



Louise Haigh criticised TransPennine Express

port minister Mark Harper the Government 'cannot continue to wash their hands of responsibility, nor reward failure' as the damage to the economy from the decision of the private operator mounts.

She has urged ministers to begin the process of withdrawing the contract.

"This fiasco is causing real damage to the regional economy, passengers and the public," said the MP.

"This cannot continue, in

November ministers promised passengers that the new timetable would be deliverable, but the results are in and it's worse than ever. Ministers cannot continue to think that the management of TransPennine Express are blameless in this.

"The North can't afford TransPennine Express any longer. The government must, immediately, strip TransPennine Express of this contract and bring it under the Operator of Last Resort."

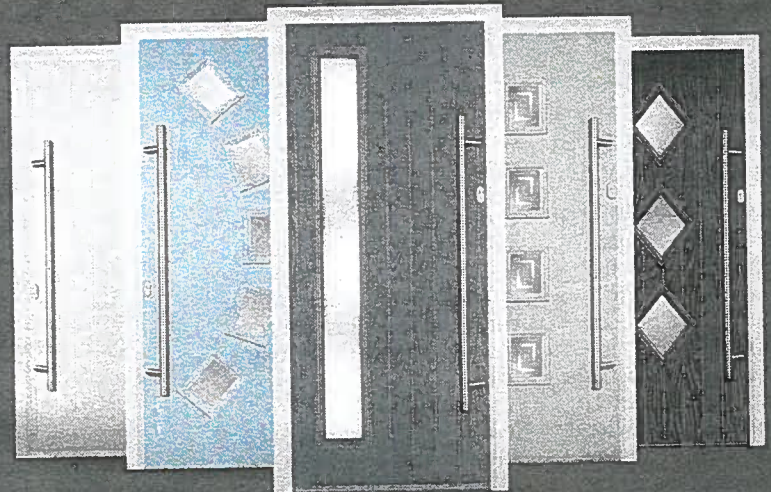
"This hapless government cannot continue to wash their hands of responsibility, blame anyone but themselves, and reward failure without consequences. It's time ministers put passengers first."

South Yorkshire council leaders backed a £1.1 million boost to tackle local public transport pressures.

it comes despite continued pressures on local government finance.

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