



Stratford St. Mary Primary School

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Dear Parents,

County Council Risk Rating of our school

Local media will soon be publishing a story about a Risk Rating of our school and others in Suffolk that has been conducted by the County Council. As this may be confusing, I want to contact you directly to explain the situation.

The council rates schools Green, Amber or Red according to an assessment of the risk of their performance becoming unacceptably low as defined by the Government's Department for Education. Green indicates there are not considered to be risks, Amber that there are some risks, and Red that there are serious risks.

Our school is currently Risk Rated Amber. This may surprise you as the school's current Ofsted rating is 'Good' with Outstanding Features.

The important thing to note is that the Risk Rating scheme is designed to identify potential problems that might damage the school's future performance. Identifying risks is the start of a process by which the County Council determines how best to support schools to ensure good or better learning for all pupils.

By conducting the ratings it is possible to identify good practice in schools that can be shared with other schools, and where support from the county council can help secure rapid improvement.

The Risk Ratings scheme was intended to be an internal process between the school and the council, but a Freedom of Information request for the Risk Rating of each school was submitted to the County Council. The council refused to provide the information because it felt it could easily be misinterpreted. This decision was referred to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) by Archant; publishers of the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star newspapers, and the ICO has ruled that the ratings must be made available to them. Archant has told the County Council it intends to publish all school risk ratings in the next few days.

I hope this letter helps set our school's risk rating in its proper context and would like to reassure you that everyone at the school is committed to providing excellent education for our students and will always address any risks to our performance.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Bilner
Head Teacher

