

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic
Primary School

7/4/24

OFSTED REPORT

Dear Parents,

We hope that you are well. As you may be aware, in January of this year the school's inspectorate, Ofsted, visited our school.

This was a two-day inspection to assess whether our school continues to be rated 'good' and included observations of lessons as well as discussions with leaders, staff, pupils and parents – thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this.

We're delighted to tell you that the inspectors were incredibly complimentary about our school and confirmed that St Mary's Catholic Primary will retain an Ofsted 'good' rating!

This was our first full inspection since our last full inspection in 2017 and monitoring visit in 2022. Since then, our school has gone from strength to strength and we are so pleased to see the many positive comments about our children, our leaders, our staff and our community.

There is much in the report to celebrate, and I'd like to draw your attention to some highlights:

- *"Pupils said that their teachers are caring. There are positive relationships between pupils and staff". They also "enjoy coming to school and do so regularly. Pupils show an equally positive attitude to their learning."*
- *"Pupils said that they appreciate being in a small school like this. They feel that it helps them to form closer bonds with other pupils."*
- *"The school fosters a genuine love of reading and makes it a high priority. Books are given pride of place around the building"... "The school provides excellent, highly focused levels of additional support to pupils who need extra help with learning to read. This means that the vast majority of pupils quickly become fluent, confident readers."*
- *"Since the last inspection, the school has raised its expectations for what pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), can achieve."*
- *"Pupils have access to wide a range of extra-curricular opportunities that include art, drama and sports clubs". "They [pupils] appreciate the additional curriculum trips and*

residential visits that the school organises for them. Pupils take part in many charitable activities such as foodbank collections and coffee mornings.”

- *“The school caters particularly well for pupils’ personal development. Pupils develop a strong understanding of how to look after their own mental well-being. They know how to develop safe, positive relationships with others. They know how to stay safe online.”*

Areas for improvement were identified as developing the Early Years curriculum beyond the evolution in maths and phonics teaching, which is already done “*consistently well*”, refining approaches to evaluating the delivery of some curriculums and developing further curriculum guidance for teachers in mixed-aged classes.

Overall, this is a fantastic report and we will incorporate the feedback into our existing programmes for improvements to curriculum delivery as we continue to work with pace and purpose to make St. Mary’s the very best school it can be.

I’d like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank-you to everyone in our school community – our staff, governors, pupils, parents and carers - who have been so proud to work in partnership with leaders and staff at the school in reaching this milestone.

This result is testament to the tireless work and dedication from all our staff and school community in making this a happy, safe and inclusive school where every child can thrive. We look forward to continuing on this journey together, as we step into the next exciting chapter for this community.

A copy of the report is available on the school website for you to view. If you have any questions, then please do get in touch and I will do all that I can to answer them.

Kind Regards,

KScott

Mrs. K. Scott

Headteacher