

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to inform you that the Ofsted Report from our inspection in May 2023 is now available on our school website and a copy is attached to this letter.

The process was very detailed and rigorous and we are pleased that our achievement and successes have been recognised. We would like to thank all those who took part in the inspection, staff, governors, parents and pupils alike.

It is with the greatest of pleasure, as Head Teacher of St Marys Catholic Primary school that I can confirm that our school remains 'Good', a benchmark that is high under the current Ofsted framework.

We are very pleased that the hard work undertaken by all in the school community has been recognised, including the systems in place and our curriculum for all pupils. As the report is restricted to a 500-word limit, we wanted to write a foreward so that we could share the fantastic feedback given by the OFSTED inspectors during their final meeting. We would also like to share our target areas, which we are already beginning to action.

Ofsted said:

"Your team have done a sterling job!"

We carried out 'deep dives' into Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Documentation for History, Art and Design were also looked at.

A summary of the feedback given to school leaders is outlined below:

Quality of Education

Reading:

A systematic approach to the delivery of the reading scheme, regular training given to staff delivering. Evidence seen, expertise, children quickly getting support. A concise delivery. Books are clearly matched to the learning. A systematic approach to the tracking of pupils. Strategies used to incentivise reading. Thought behind the selection of books for the older readers. Reading is prioritised! There is a real love for reading.

Curriculum beyond reading:

Maths

- Experienced subject leader
- Leaders monitor staff closely- books/ plans
- Subject knowledge of teachers is strong
- Teachers check pupils' misunderstandings
- Teachers adapt their teaching to meet pupils needs
- Children's learning needs are met

- Children enjoy lessons
- Expectations, including pupils with SEND is high
- Good use of mini whiteboards to show work
- TA's supported pupils but did not spoon feed

Training and monitoring is all up to date. Vocabulary used is subject specific and shows excellent pedagogy. High listening, strong understanding and good behaviours were observed. Good explanations by support staff. No children being left behind. Good use of the buddy system, good personal development. The picture in Maths was strong. High expectations of SEND pupils, good use of resources. Specific needs are met.

Science

- Enhanced curriculum with theme days and competitions
- Entrance tickets being trialled
- Staff feel confident about teaching science
- 'Working scientifically' is built in, but can continue to be improved
- Teachers have strong subject knowledge, particularly in KS2
- Appropriate visuals used in class to support learning
- Teachers are supported by subject leaders
- Subject is monitored and in line with policies
- Effective curriculum
- Children were focused in their science lessons

In Science the school are ambitious. The scheme builds progressively, it is exciting. The entry and exit tickets are to be developed so that the children are better able to demonstrate what has been stored in their long-term memory. Teachers are confident about teaching Science. Excellent Science subject knowledge. Good use of resources.

SEND

- Pupils with SEND are engaged in lessons alongside their peers
- The SENCO knows her subject well (She knows her stuff!)
- No evidence of children who are unsupported
- Parents feel supported
- SEND identification system in place
- School staff know the children very well
- Targets are achievable and understood by staff and pupils

In SEND the SENDCO has excellent subject knowledge, systems are effective. The lowest 20% are well supported, no evidence that pupils are unsupported.

Safeguarding

- Feedback from parents, children and staff were looked at
- Pupils feel safe
- Staff have up to date training
- Leaders use questionnaires and highlight areas that they need to address
- Staff know the safe guarding processes in school
- There is a rigorous system which is reviewed regularly
- There is a regular routine to training
- Weekly staff meeting agenda has safe guarding item
- Governors check and monitor well
- Leaders take regular audits and Incidents are followed up
- Children are taught how to keep safe

Behaviour

Positive attitudes. Behaviour is very good, no one is off task. Pupils learn very well. Teachers are kind and caring. There is a clear and concise behaviour policy. Pupils say they love school. Children are very respectful and polite. Systems are great and it is a real strength of the school.

Wider development

The school provides a range of opportunities, lots of clubs for such a small school. Children take on responsibilities and this develops character. The children are tolerant and have an understanding of other faiths. Teachers and pupils are caring. Confident, well-spoken children.

Next steps

- Establish a check to see what the children have stored in their long-term memories in science through development of the Exit tickets.
- Subject leaders to observe the teaching of their subjects not just senior leadership.

We are particularly pleased that Ofsted recognise the journey of improvements made at the school since our last inspection and that standards remain high.

I think we can all agree that this is an excellent report!

Once again, may we thank all those involved in the inspection itself, especially the staff, governors and children who continue to demonstrate that we truly are; 'A Place of Educational Excellence with Christ at its Centre'.

Kind regards,

Laura Concannon
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St Marys Catholic Primary School

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