



Dear Parents/Carers,

For your information the Ofsted report following our most recent inspection is now on the Ofsted website and on our school website. It can be found under the Policies & Documents section. Please follow the link to view this report.

The school has been graded as 'requiring improvement', a grade formerly known as 'satisfactory'. Whilst there is disappointment in receiving this grade, we were fully aware that the revised inspection framework, combined with our historical school data, made it unlikely that the school would achieve a 'good' grade in the outcomes section. Also, that this would impact on the section on teaching, learning and assessment at this time.

It is important to note that it is eleven years since our last inspection and there have been many different frameworks during this time. There is also a different curriculum and assessment system in place. Due to these changes all schools nationally face a challenge in meeting the ever increasing and more demanding Ofsted expectations.

Undoubtedly the outcome of the inspection provides the school with a series of challenges to improve educational attainment. The school feels it has the determination and resources to accept this challenge and is already addressing the points made in this key area of school life.

Some of the findings of our recent Ofsted are elements that the inspectors recognised we had already identified ourselves and are part of our current School Development Plan 2017-2018.

It was pleasing to see the many positive comments reported regarding our excellent children. These included how safe the children feel in school, how well behaved they are and how much they enjoy school life. Children were also very clear in knowing what to do if they did have a concern.

We would like to thank all of you for the tremendous support during the inspection. The Ofsted team were overwhelmed by how highly parents/carers praised the school and the staff. Inspectors used words like outstanding for safeguarding and welfare during the visit. They also recognised that leaders and governors have the capacity to continue to move the school forward.

The report does also contain many positive and supportive statements about the school. I'd like to particularly draw your attention to the following -

- Ofsted praised the fact that our school offers 'a rich, broad and balanced curriculum that engages pupils and contributes to their enjoyment of learning'. Also that teachers have a good subject knowledge.
- Teachers are well-organised, use a range of resources, involve children in their learning and use imaginative and well-presented activities.
- The school's Christian values and school motto 'Living together, loving together and learning together' are embodied in everything the school does.
- The school offers an excellent personal, social, emotional and health curriculum that is woven into all that the school does.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are strength. Also that 'Staff treat pupils with the utmost consideration and ensure that the school makes everyone feel welcome and valued'.
- A number of parents were keen to say that their children 'loved school and couldn't wait to come each morning' and that this was because the staff 'go above and beyond for the children'.
- Pupils told inspectors how proud they were of their school and how they were well looked after by adults.
- Leaders are highly respected and have the full commitment of staff, parents and pupils.
- Governors offer a good range of expertise and are conscientious in their responsibilities.

The school does take very seriously the range of factors highlighted in the report that the inspection team felt are presently preventing the school being classified as a 'good' school in terms of the Ofsted framework. As indicated above, the school is already implementing a detailed and effective action plan to ensure that standards continue to rise.

We have the full backing of the Local Authority and the Archdiocese. With your continued support and a lot of hard work, I am certain that we can do this together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E. van de Waal
Head Teacher