



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

Having just received the final report from Ofsted, I am delighted to tell you that the Overall Effectiveness of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School has been judged as 'Good' at the inspection held on 12th and 13th November 2015.

This is excellent news. Particularly, as one of the key areas was judged as 'Outstanding'.

The 'Good' has been achieved by the sustained dedication and sheer hard work of all the staff to raise the standards at the school, for the benefit of your children. We are very fortunate to have such excellent people at St Augustine's. The leadership of Mrs Warren has been inspirational. On behalf of the governors, I thank all of them.

Also, I thank you, the parents and carers of the children, for your support, encouragement and loyalty over the last two years as we strove successfully to raise the standards at St Augustine's.

As well as the Overall Effectiveness, the school was judged in five areas. The judgements were:

- Effectiveness of leadership and management - Good
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment - Good
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare - Outstanding
- Outcomes for pupils - Good
- Early years provision – Good

A copy of the complete report is on the website of the school, under Ofsted; follow the links to the report. I encourage you to read it. Good news always makes marvellous reading!

That said, I felt that it would be helpful if I mentioned a few key points in the report.

Ofsted recognised the strengths of the school and described them as shown below.

This is a good school

■ The headteacher, supported by a strong governing body, has taken strategic action since the last inspection to improve pupils' achievement. Pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, now leave the school well prepared for their secondary education;

■ By the end of Year 6 in 2015, pupils' attainment, including that of disadvantaged pupils, was above the national averages in reading, writing and mathematics. It was significantly so for the most-able girls in writing and for the most-able boys in mathematics;

■ Teaching has improved, especially in lower Key Stage 2, as a result of a high quality professional development programme. This includes the effectiveness of marking and feedback in workbooks. Pupils now understand more readily what they need to do to improve their work and so their progress has accelerated;

■ Attendance is now high;

■ The good teaching of phonics (the sounds that letters make) enables pupils, including those who arrive at the school speaking little or no English, to reach above average standards in reading;

■ Pupils are very well cared for by all adults in the school, and so they feel completely safe and secure. Year 6 pupils assert that bullying of any kind is rare;

■ Pupils' behaviour in and around the school is usually exemplary. Almost all pupils, staff and parents who completed the online questionnaires expressed positive views about pupils' behaviour;

■ Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strongly promoted. The pervading atmosphere is welcoming, calm and harmonious;

■ Provision in the early years is good for children of varying abilities and from a wide range of backgrounds.

Ofsted also commented on what we have to do to improve further. These areas had already been identified by Mrs Warren, the Headteacher, and the governors as needing attention. Action plans were in place to improve these, so that at the next inspection we will be judged as an 'Outstanding' school.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

■ Ensure that all teaching, learning and assessment is consistently good or better by:

- challenging pupils appropriately in all lessons, especially more-able girls in mathematics and more-able boys in writing;
- strengthening marking and feedback in workbooks in Key Stage 1 and upper Key Stage 2 so that pupils are always clear about the next steps they need to take to improve their work;
- developing staff expertise in using the new assessment system for assessing pupils' achievement without levels so that all staff are confident in using this information to plan teaching that appropriately challenges all pupils.

■ Improve leadership and management by supporting subject leaders to:

- develop their roles in promoting achievement in their areas of responsibility;
- embedding the new system for assessing pupils' achievement without levels.

In the New Year, Mrs Warren and I will hold briefings for parents / carers on the inspection report. The dates will be announced soon.

It has been a challenging two years as we strove successfully to raise the standards at St Augustine's for the benefit of all the children. Your support has meant a great deal to the staff and governors. On behalf of them, thank you.

Finally, the way that your children have adapted and responded to the necessary changes at the school, and their excellent behaviour during the Ofsted inspection, make all the hard work worthwhile!

Yours sincerely

Mark Dennison
Chair of Governors