



Friday 15th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED REPORT AND OUTCOME

As you are aware, we welcomed OFSTED to Our Lady's Catholic Primary School on 31st January and 1st February. We were delighted to showcase our lovely school to the Inspectors, and our students, as always, made us very proud. Thank you to all families who provided feedback both on the day or online via ParentView.

We were judged to be overall 'Requires Improvement' and we are very happy to share that we achieved 'Good' grades in Early Years and Personal Development.

This result shows significant progress and improvement since the last Inspection, and we believe this to be a fair outcome based on where we are on our journey of rapid improvement to an overall Good. Ofsted stated that, 'The school, alongside the trust, has raised its expectations of what pupils can and should achieve.' All of the staff are absolutely focused on making the whole school experience as good as it can be for your children from the moment they join our community.

The full report can be found on our school website on the 'Inspections and Results' page.

Please see some highlights from the report below:

Early Years: Ofsted recognised the substantial progress made in Early Years.

'Children in the early years get off to a strong start. Staff have a clear understanding of gaps in children's early development. They adapt the learning environment and the curriculum to ensure these early gaps are addressed.'

Safeguarding: Ofsted have deemed this to be effective.

This is testament to the hard work and commitment of colleagues across the school. 'Pupils know that adults will listen to any worries or concerns they may have.'

Early Reading and Reading Fluency: Demonstrates great progress from our previous inspection.

'Most pupils learn to sound out unfamiliar words with increasing confidence. Children in the early years use this knowledge in their play. They confidently apply the sounds they learn in their independent writing. Older pupils learn to read with more fluency. They are developing their knowledge of how to read and understand more complex texts.'

Personal Development: Continues to be a strength of the school.

'The school places a strong emphasis on fostering pupils' wider personal development. Pupils' talents and interests are considered when developing this offer. They learn how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy. They learn how to stay safe online. Pupils respect and value different communities in society. They have a sense of equality and fairness. As one pupil commented, 'If people are treated differently, it is so they get the same as everyone else.'

Curriculum: An area that has seen recent improvements that continue to be embedded.

Ofsted noted that, 'The recent revisions in the school's curriculum have ensured that there is a clear, logical order of knowledge that pupils must know and recall. It matches the breadth of the national curriculum.'

Behaviour: The Inspectors recognised that Behaviour has been a priority.

They noted that students 'understand that the new school behaviour systems are fair' and that 'Most pupils are well mannered and courteous.' They also commented that 'Most pupils understand and respond well to the new expectations for behaviour. For some, it has supported them to regulate their behaviour successfully. Where needed, the school seeks advice from external agencies to meet the needs of some pupils.'

What are the Next Steps?

Whilst we have made great progress in many areas, we agree with the report that we must now continue to embed and further implement the new successful systems, for example, with regards to managing behaviour and attendance.

We had already prioritised the Curriculum in our School Improvement Plan. We agree with the report that the curriculum improvements must now be implemented, and we discussed our roll out action plan with the Inspectors.

We also have an ongoing planned training schedule in collaboration with Trust Leaders, continued monitoring and coaching of quality first teaching, as well as continued development of middle leaders and subject leaders.

Be assured that the Trust (OLICAT Schools) and the Governors will do all that is necessary to ensure that staff receive the support, resources and aid that is required to achieve our curriculum goals, specifically in raising outcomes, implementing and ensuring consistent application and delivery of the teaching curriculum.

"The Governing Body is very pleased to note that the significant progress the school has made, under Miss Gribble's leadership, since its last inspection, has been recognised by Ofsted in this report.

In particular, the importance that the school places on valuing equally each member of our school community and the commitment of all associated with the school – parents, children, staff, governors and the Trust - to making Our Lady's a happy, respectful and positive place of learning."

Joe Burns, Chair of Governors

Information Workshop for Parents: How can you support us moving forward?

We would like to invite you to an after-school workshop to discuss the latest visit from OFSTED, their feedback and answer any questions you may have. This will also give you the opportunity to hear from Senior Leaders and Governors at the school, who will share in more detail the improvement plans for the next 2-3 years.

We look forward to sharing a date with you as soon as possible.

All that we do is underpinned by our Mission Statement, “Jesus said, Love one another, as I have loved you”. Our many thanks to you and your children, as our special and valued Our Lady’s community works together, progressing from strength to strength and continuing our positive journey of improvement.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Gribble - Headteacher

Mr Burns – Chair of Governors

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust School Improvement Team