



St Mary's Catholic Primary

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Co-Headteachers: Mr Jonathan Sims & Ms Clare Phipps
Chief Executive: Mr David Garrido

Wednesday 18th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

You will remember that we wrote to parents in the newsletter on Friday 2nd December to give some brief feedback regarding the Ofsted Inspection that took place on Wednesday 30th November and Friday 1st December.

It is with great pride that we are able to formally announce that St Mary's was awarded the 'Outstanding' grade overall. We were judged by a team of three inspectors (two of whom were His Majesty's Inspectors) to be outstanding in all five categories. This is a tremendous achievement which involved the whole school community.

For some context, in 2019, the Ofsted framework was overhauled to ensure that inspectors looked at the whole school curriculum and put less importance on results and policies. Over the two days, the inspectors looked at a wide range of subjects including: reading, writing, maths, music, history, computing, design & technology, French and PSHE to establish whether St Mary's had a logical and cohesive curriculum; whether it was delivered well; and most importantly whether the children could demonstrate what they are learning over a period of time. **This ensured that in the five sub-criteria, we were awarded outstanding in all areas.**

The last inspection of St Mary's took place over 11 years ago and there have been many changes in school leadership and education thinking since. From the most recent data available, of the last 100 primary school inspections in the country, only two primary schools have been awarded the outstanding grade. So once again, **thank you for supporting us to achieve this public recognition of the outstanding work we do with your wonderful children.**

The positive responses in the parent, staff and pupil surveys contributed to the overall judgement so thank you for all who completed these. The inspectors commented so positively about the children's behaviour and attitudes; they said that they didn't see a single piece of negative behaviour in their time here. They were impressed with the ethos of the school from the moment they walked into the building. **As a whole school community, we should be so proud of what we have achieved together.**

Whilst we celebrate this result as a school, it makes us even more determined to continue to be a beacon for Catholic Education and look forward to what we can continue to achieve together. And whilst the inspectors did not identify any significant areas to improve on, we already have plans to move forward and see what we can continue to improve in our school.

Kind regards,

Mr Sims and Miss Phipps