

St. Aidan's Church of England Primary School

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5 :16



21st March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection and to share with you the final report. The inspection took place on February 20th and 21st and evaluated all aspects of our school's provision against the parameters set by the Ofsted framework.

Although it was celebrated that St Aidan's has many strengths, and is committed in terms of relentlessly supporting pupils' personal development, the inspection framework and restricted one-word assessments used to indicate the evaluation resulted in the overall judgement of the school as "Requires Improvement" - even though elements of the framework rated us as "Good" and the word 'Outstanding' was used for Personal Development during inspection.

While this is extremely disappointing considering the extensive journey we have been on and continue to travel, it is important to recognise that the inspection process is designed to identify areas for improvement and support schools in their pursuit of excellence. The inspector's report therefore highlights both the strengths of our school and the areas where the improvement journey for the school needs more time to embed.

For example, the report highlights several positive aspects of our school, such as: the dedication and commitment of our staff; the strong relationships between staff and pupils; and the quality of teaching and learning in many subjects. These strengths acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our entire community. Indeed you will read that school is a 'haven of calm', 'pupils champion each other to 'let their light shine'', 'school is built on a strong culture of respect', 'school has high expectations for pupils' learning', and 'pupils are expected to work hard to succeed'. There are so many other positives listed; for example, it was noted that our pupils leave St Aidan's attaining significantly higher than national averages in end of KS2 assessments.

However, the report identifies some areas that require improvement for us to take on board. One of the areas raised by the inspectors was the need for further curriculum development for our two-year-olds' provision so that it progressively feeds into our EYFS and through to Year 6. The report also states that, Ofsted found our Beacon Curriculum to be ambitious, and our pupils spoke highly of the knowledge and skills they are learning. As a result, we will be publishing further component knowledge for all pupils, from two-year-olds to eleven-year-olds, to show this progression (these are already in place from Reception to Year 6).

The inspectors also highlighted the need for further embedding of assessment practices across 'all' subjects, which will allow us to further monitor the progress of our pupils in 'all' subjects. The school does have this new system in place and the teachers are using across all subject areas. Unfortunately, at the 'point in time' of the inspection, the system was regarded as not yet fully embedded for long enough to make a judgement as the assessment system - alongside the Beacon Curriculum - had only been in place for three half terms.

I want to assure you that we are committed to addressing the areas for continual improvement and we have already developed an action plan that outlines the steps we will be taking to further embed the work which has already been put in place.

I encourage you to read the report, which is available on our school website, [Ofsted Report February 2024](#) as there are so many positive outcomes. However, we do not feel that the one-word overarching judgement reflects our school, and our whole school team, Governors, Local Authority and Diocese are all so proud of our journey to this point.

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Diocese of
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As a school, we firmly believe in the power of working together in partnership with parents and carers. Your continued support and involvement in your child's education are crucial to this.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact school on staidans_admin@sthelens.org.uk

Your feedback, suggestions and participation will be invaluable as we work towards achieving and sustaining our shared goals of continued success for all our pupils and continuing on our curriculum journey.

Thank you for your ongoing support, trust and confidence in St. Aidan's CE.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Fisher
Headteacher

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