



Our Ref: MYS/OF2024

June 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOME

We are thrilled to share with you formally, the wonderful news regarding St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy. We have recently undergone an inspection by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, and we are proud to announce that our school has been graded as "Good." This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative efforts of our entire school community.

The Ofsted inspection is a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation of the quality of education provided by our school. It assesses various aspects, including the effectiveness of leadership and management, the quality of teaching and learning, the personal development and well-being of students, and the outcomes for learners. We are delighted that the inspectors recognised our commitment to excellence in each of these areas.

The "Good" rating acknowledges the exceptional work carried out by our talented and passionate teachers, support staff, and governors. Their dedication to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment has been instrumental in creating a positive educational experience for our children. We are immensely proud of our children, whose enthusiasm, engagement, and commitment to their school work were evident during the inspection. The Catholic life and mission of the school is referenced in a number of places and we are proud that our school community embeds the heart of our mission statement: 'We value all in the name of Jesus the Christ'.

The report highlighted several areas of strength that contribute to the overall success of our school. These include:

'There are high aspirations for all pupils. The school is a warm and welcoming place to learn. Leaders have established an engaging and well-structured curriculum. Pupils are enthusiastic learners. They enjoy coming to school and attend well. Leaders are determined that all pupils will flourish at Saint Mary's. Relationships between staff and pupils are positive and caringBehaviour is calm and orderly'.

'The curriculum is now broad and well sequenced. The most important knowledge that pupils need to know is clearly identified and broken down into small steps of learning. Leaders make sure that the curriculum in different subjects considers the increasingly diverse needs and interests of pupils'.

'The school has a consistent approach to the teaching of early reading. All adults implement the school's chosen phonics programme well. Pupils read books that contain the sounds that they know. Pupils who need to catch up have regular, individual phonics lessons. The school celebrates reading in many ways across the school. Pupils enjoy listening to their teacher read the class reading book each day. They are proud of their new library'.

'Pupils benefit well from the school's personal development programme. They demonstrate a knowledge of different faiths. Visitors from other religious communities help pupils understand what

belonging to a different faith means. Everyone in the school community embraces equality of opportunity'.

'Trustees and governors have a clear vision for the school. The school is well supported by the trust. School and trust leaders have provided suitable training to curriculum leaders to develop their subjects. Governors and trustees perform their statutory duties well. They hold school leaders to account effectively. Staff say that leaders consider their needs and prioritise their welfare when introducing new initiatives'.

While we are delighted with the "Good" rating, we remain committed to continual improvement. The Ofsted report also highlighted areas where we can further enhance our provision, and we are actively working on addressing these recommendations. We are confident that our ongoing dedication to providing the best possible education for your children will lead to even greater success in the future.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you, parents and guardians, for your unwavering support and trust in our school. Your partnership and involvement play a crucial role in creating a positive learning environment for our students. We encourage you to read the full Ofsted report, which will be available on our school website and the Ofsted website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible team of teachers and staff for their exceptional work, as well as the Trust of Our Lady of Lourdes and our governors for their guidance and support. Lastly, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our children for their dedication and enthusiasm, which continues to inspire us every day.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information. We look forward to continuing our journey together and achieving even greater success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph O'Connor

Mr TJA O'Connor B.A, M.Ed (SEND), NPQSL

