

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another very busy term at Sacred Heart I am delighted to be able to share some wonderful news. **Special Measures have been removed from Sacred Heart School.** We received a monitoring visit from HMI on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This visit was converted into a full OFSTED Inspection in order to make the judgement for the removal of special measures and to give grades for the different elements of our school's work. The full OFSTED report is available through our school's web site and will be reported on the OFSTED web site.

The overall judgement for Sacred Heart is that we are a school which 'Requires Improvement' because it is not yet good in all areas. The areas which are strengths are identified in the report, as well as those areas which require development in order to secure a judgement of 'good' overall. We are very pleased that **three out of five areas received judgements of good:** the effectiveness of Leadership and Management, Personal, development, behaviour and welfare and Early Years provision are all good. The areas of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and Outcomes for Pupils are requiring improvement. All areas have improved since the last OFSTED inspection of Sept 2014. This is a most positive outcome and as we read further into the report it is clear that there is an optimistic view and a clear vision for the future at Sacred Heart.

#### Here are some of our favourite quotes:

'Visitors are welcomed to Sacred Heart by the sign 'I have called you by your name, you are mine', which captures the ethos of this school. Parents, staff and pupils consider they are listened to and valued under the leadership of the new Headteacher.'

'Staff have successfully planned an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum which covers all areas of the national curriculum and takes into account pupils' interests. Pupils are enjoying different subjects and quickly start learning with the 'wow' starters, pre-learning activities, visits and visitors which bring these subjects to life.'

'Relationships with parents are good. Parents feel increasingly involved in their children's learning.'

'Pupils feel safe and are well cared for. Behaviour is good. Pupils are friendly, welcoming, polite and increasingly confident.'

'Children in the early years make good progress and are well prepared for Year 1.'

'Governance is strong. The governing body is united with the Headteacher in their determination to improve the school.'

'Pupils say that bullying is rare and that adults take action to sort it out.'

'Smartly dressed pupils move around the school in an orderly fashion, showing courtesy and good manners to each other and visitors.'



'Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development strongly underpins the school. Assemblies are thought provoking; the 'big questions' raise discussions about a variety of topics such as voting, democracy and having confidence to express their views...'

'Pupils have good attitudes to learning; they want to learn. Such positive attitudes contribute to pupils' improving progress. Most concentrate well in lessons and persevere with tasks.'

'Teaching assistants have gone from strength to strength... their contribution to pupil progress is valued and appreciated. Communication between the teacher and the teaching assistants is well established so that both know how well pupils are learning. Consequently there is a rich check on pupils' progress so that any underachievement can be identified quickly and support programmes adapted.'

In Early Years: 'The quality of teaching is good; adults have a secure understanding of early years provision and can use assessment information skilfully to plan learning which motivates and encourages children to learn.'

'Parents are very satisfied with the care and attention their children receive in the early years. Parents have attended workshops held by the schools that they know how the school teaches letters and sounds, and so support their children at home.'

So there is lots to be proud of. We are now in a strong position to continue to build on these successes. OFSTED has given the following next steps for further improvement:

**1. Improve teaching, and therefore outcomes for all groups of pupils by:**

- Using the strong teaching in the school to model effective practice
- Increasing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of the new schemes in English and mathematics so that they are confident to adapt learning when necessary
- Strengthening teachers' use of assessment techniques so that they can challenge pupils more or intervene when a pupil misunderstands
- Making sure that teachers help pupils to transfer their improving basic skills to sustained and extended pieces of writing across all subjects
- Embedding the changes to the curriculum so that teaching in other subjects is robust and pupils make good progress

**2. Further develop the skills and knowledge of leaders in all subjects so that they are confident and competent to check on the effectiveness of their subjects and drive improvements to teaching and pupils' achievement within their area of responsibility**

**3. Improve pupils' rate of attendance by:**

- Strengthening relationships further with the number of parents who do not send their children to school regularly so that they understand the role they must play in securing good learning
- Continuing to utilise all powers available to school leaders to encourage parents to bring their children to school regularly

We will be drawing up plans to address these areas, which will ensure that our school continues to sustain the rapid improvements achieved so far. If you would like more information about the inspection, please see the full copy of the report on our school web site or ask at the school office for a copy.

So it is an exciting time to be part of Sacred Heart School Community. Thank you very much to everyone who has played their part in bringing our school so far on its journey out of special measures and for achieving so much for our pupils.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C. Mason (Headteacher)