

"Every child is a unique child of God."

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

28th February 2020

Dear Families,

Following the recent Ofsted inspection (Section 5) of Whinmoor St. Paul's C of E (VA) Primary School on 22nd and 23rd of January 2020, please find attached a copy of the report.

Ofsted Inspectors judged the effectiveness of the school as follows:

Overall effectiveness: **Good**
The quality of Education: **Good**
Behaviour and attitudes: **Good**
Personal development: **Outstanding**
Leadership and management: **Good**
Early years provision: **Good**

We are delighted that the school has moved from being judged as 'requiring improvement' to 'good with outstanding features'. This is testament to the hard work and effort of our whole school community, including the children, staff, governors and parents.

Some of the many areas of strength identified by Ofsted inspectors included:

'The Head teacher leads the school with passion and integrity...Staff value each pupil. They set high expectations for all pupils within a nurturing and caring environment.'

'Staff have worked together to design a strong curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.'

'...the teaching of reading is strong. In the early years and key stage 1, staff are well trained in the teaching of phonics....The strong focus on reading continues into key stage 2.'

'Staff encourage all pupils to share their own beliefs and traditions with pride.'

'The school is welcoming and inclusive...'

'Pupils with SEND enjoy the same broad curriculum as their classmates.'

'The school has a culture of being vigilant to identify pupils who may be at risk.'

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We feel that some clarification would be helpful in response to a comment in the report relating to maths teaching.

Maths across school has improved year on year. External data evidences that children's performance at Whinmoor St. Paul's is above National results in maths at the end of each key stage, including Early Years. We were also delighted that progress in maths throughout the school as judged at the end of Key Stage 2 was 'Significantly Above National' progress.

We believe that our outcomes evidence the success of our maths strategy. School leaders made a decision, in line with around 86% of schools nationally, to follow a Mastery approach to the teaching of maths which begins in the Early Years.

The approach, developed by White Rose Maths Hub and supported by the Department for Education, is based on national and international research to raise standards. In essence, the programme encourages children in the Early Years to look in-depth and 'master' every single number in order to deepen their understanding and learning before moving on to the next one.

We are delighted with the very successful inspection and thank our families for their support throughout our improvement journey.

The Governors, Senior Leaders and staff will continue to work with you, the Local Authority, the Diocese and within local school alliances, to build on the improvements evidenced over the last few years and to continue to make Whinmoor St. Paul's the most fantastic place for your children.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Davies
Chair of Governors

Margaret McBride
Headteacher