

## St Benedict's C. of E. VA Junior School

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**Dream, Believe, Achieve.**



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

The Ofsted Report (attached) is being published this week and it is my pleasure to share the key findings with you.

Firstly, the overall effectiveness of the school has been **upgraded to Good** and pleasingly this is the judgement in all areas of the report. There are some simple but important comments made, such as **'Pupils feel valued and safe,' 'Pupils are happy at school,' 'Pupils are making good progress,'** and staff are **'Dedicated.'**

There are several positive comments made about the children's attitudes to learning and behaviour. A key finding on the front cover states that 'Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are keen to work hard and do well.' Another of the key findings is that 'Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around school is good. This is because the school sets high expectations and strong moral values are well embedded.' There is also a quote from a child in the behaviour section of the report stating that 'We are a kind school.' I am really thrilled with the above comments as our positive culture has been developed over time by the whole school staff, Governors, the children and of course with the help of parents.

Comments on achievement and progress are positive with the report stating 'Teaching results in pupils making good progress in reading, writing and mathematics from their different starting points.' I was pleased that our focus on ELLi learning and the 9 learning animals was identified. Our focus on supporting the wellbeing of all children has been described as a strength 'The 'Bee Hive' is set apart from the rest of the school and provides pupils with a calm environment in which to talk and reflect. As a result of this nurturing support, pupils' self-esteem, behaviour and confidence are improving.'

Leadership is an area of strength at St Benedict's and this of course includes the Governors and the Leadership Team comprising of Mr Ranger, Mrs Caston, Mrs Rood and myself. A key finding on the front cover states that 'The headteacher works with commitment and drive and has successfully steered improvements since the last inspection.' Another key finding is that 'The governing body is an asset to the school. Governors support, challenge and monitor school leaders and contribute well to school improvement. The Governors can go largely unnoticed by parents and the pupils but as this comment states they work very effectively in helping the school to keep on improving.'

I feel that this report captures the school well and I am glad that our curriculum was praised as a key finding because we really do believe in a broad and balanced education: 'The school plans an interesting curriculum which motivates pupils to learn and supports their personal development well.' Other key findings were regarding safeguarding a key responsibility for everyone at St Benedict's: 'Safeguarding procedures are rigorous and a culture of safeguarding is threaded through everything that the school does to support its pupils.'

All Ofsted reports include development points and we have 3 key areas to improve in, namely, challenging the most able pupils more effectively, continuing to develop Maths and making our monitoring more focussed. We are already striving to address these targets and will have detailed actions plans in September to help us continue to make progress as a school.

I would like to thank all of the staff and the children for their hard work as we continue to improve as a school – it has certainly been an exciting journey so far! I would also like to thank parents who completed the Parent View questionnaire. Finally, if anyone would like to discuss any points made in the Ofsted report please do phone the school or catch me to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your support during the inspection, it was really appreciated by all of the staff.

Kind regards,

Steve Gumm