



St Mary's C of E Aided Primary School

A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs S Copus B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

14th February 2019

Dear Parents,

OFSTED INSPECTION – 22nd and 23rd January 2019

We have now received the final report from OFSTED following our inspection on 22nd and 23rd January 2019. The full report will be published on the OFSTED website on Monday 25th February. However, we are allowed to inform parents and carers of the outcome in advance.

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding (1), Good (2), Requires Improvement (3) or Inadequate (4). In recent years, the term 'Requires Improvement' has replaced the previous grading of 'Satisfactory' in the new OFSTED inspections.

In this inspection, the school was judged overall to be within the category of 'Requires Improvement' (3) and Early Years graded as 'Outstanding' (1). We are thrilled with the grading of Outstanding and it is very much deserved.

We knew that the KS2 performance data would be one of our key issues as it showed that the school had dipped significantly over the last three years. Although we are confident that we have made significant improvements since April, we knew that the inspectors would not be able to see this in our data until we have completed the tests in July, and this has been reflected in the report.

The inspectors found many positive strengths within the school, particularly since April 2018, and were satisfied that the school is already making progress towards ensuring high quality teaching and learning for the children of St Mary's CofE (Aided) Primary School.

A copy of the report is now on our website and we would like to draw your attention to the following. OFSTED said that school leaders 'have a clear understanding of the strengths of the school with the areas in need of most urgent improvement' and 'the current leadership team are committed to improving quality of teaching and progress of children.'

OFSTED praised the work that the school is doing in making key improvements and noted that behaviour in the school has been transformed and the school is a much calmer, happier place.

The inspectors found that the Governors know the most urgent areas for improvement and are ambitious for the school and have high expectations of what the pupils can achieve. They also recognised the positive impact that new approaches to the teaching of Maths has had and that these were developing pupils' confidence and independence, as well as leading to improvements in outcomes. Leaders have ensured that the overall curriculum is balanced and stimulating across the school.

OFSTED said, 'the welfare of pupils is at the heart of the school's work and pupils know that the adults care about them and will listen to them.' The inspectors stressed that they thought the behaviour in assemblies was impeccable.

Inspectors identified that 'pupils enjoy learning and show positive attitudes to their learning and each other. Pupils cooperate and listen to each other's ideas and this creates a happy, harmonious school.' The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good.



OFSTED recognised that in Early Years, ‘children’s achievement has been consistently strong due to highly effective teaching and outstanding leadership.’

There are many other points that you will be able to read for yourself.

Obviously, inspectors also highlighted key areas which require improvement.

These include:

- Attendance – although rates have increased sharply this year, they are below the national average for primary schools and too many pupils are persistently absent from school. This has contributed greatly to the school not getting good overall in this section of the Ofsted.
- Pupil outcomes – Key Stage 2 performance data needs to improve and KS1 needs to become more consistent in outcomes year by year.
- Improve assessment and tracking systems to provide a clear view of how different groups of pupils are progressing.
- Consistency of high expectations across the school.

It is obviously very disappointing for staff that the outcome of the inspection has found that parts of the school requires improvement and it will undoubtedly be disappointing for you as parents. However, it must be said that all staff in school are committed to providing the best education and care for the children of St Mary’s CofE (Aided) Primary School. To a certain extent, the outcome of the inspection was not a surprise given the turbulent and unsettled times that the school has experienced in recent years. However, as part of County’s support to the school, we have received additional funding to further improve outcomes which we have used to develop our Maths and Literacy curriculum, assist staff with their professional development, invest in technology, books and resources, as well as using expertise from other sources to enrich the teaching and learning for all the children.

With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and continue to address the issues about which you as parents are most concerned – that is ensuring that the children of St Mary’s Primary School receive the high quality education that they deserve in a safe environment where all children are supported to reach their potential. We hope that you will recognise the many positives in this report and continue to support us with this aim.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to come to Parent’s Evenings later this term to look at progress in the children’s books as this was recognised and commented positively on by Ofsted. We are confident that you have already seen dramatic improvements in many aspects of the school. I would like to thank you, as parents, for the support you have shown the school.

A copy of the full report can be found on our website:

https://stmaryspulborough.eschools.co.uk/website/ofsted_report_school_performance_tables/64410

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S J Copus
Acting Headteacher