



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware St Paul's had a visit from Ofsted on 28th March 2017. The report has now been received and can be accessed either on the Ofsted website – www.ofsted.gov.uk or our own website www.stpauls.wirral.sch.uk You can also request a full copy of the report by contacting the office.

The school remains a "good school". Below are some highlights from the report.

You have tackled well the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. Teaching is now consistent and your new marking policy ensures that pupils in all classes know how well they have done and how to improve their work. The parents I spoke to expressed very positive views about the school. They find staff approachable and appreciate the way in which you greet pupils every morning at the gate. This means that parents can immediately air any concerns. This was summed up for me by one parent who wrote 'the school is very proactive when dealing with parents' concerns'.

Pupils demonstrate good attitudes to learning. Their social and academic progress is fostered well. Your pupils learn how to take on responsibility, such as serving on the school or Eco councils, and told me that they felt they understood British values well. Your 'bully buster' campaign is effective. The pupils I met were confident that bullying was not a problem in school and that if it occurred then it was dealt with well by the staff. As a result, your pupils feel safe and well-looked after.

I was especially impressed by the new provision that you created for two-year-old children from September 2014. Learning activities, such as teddy bears' picnics, celebrating world book day, learning nursery rhymes (including parents), exploring ice in winter and baking gingerbread men, have resulted in all of the children in the setting making better than expected progress towards the early learning goals.

You, your staff and governors share a commitment to keeping pupils safe. Your arrangements for safeguarding are meticulous and highly effective. You work successfully with other agencies to minimise the possibility of harm to any pupil.

Pupils were confident in saying that they are well-looked after and can share any worries they might have with an adult. They described their school as a happy and safe place. They like the pastoral care group sessions in which pupils from all classes work together in groups to earn 'golden tickets'.

Pupils told me confidently that they understood how to keep themselves safe in different situations. I was impressed by their awareness of the dangers to avoid when using the internet and social media.

In the Early Years and key stage 1 classes you ensure that there are plenty of building and water experiments and there is a good focus on investigation in science topics. Your staff are choosing reading texts which especially appeal to boys. It is pleasing that currently 50% of the pupils who enjoy coming to 'Tales at Teatime' in the library every day after school are boys.

You are working hard to build on the good progress your younger children make in phonics so that they become fluent and competent readers.

The younger pupils who read to me were well taught to use decoding skills to pronounce new and difficult words. Older pupils explained to me that they knew how important it is to learn to read well but that it is also a great pleasure.

Your newly refurbished library is a most attractive space with many enticing books and quiet reading corners as well as lovely murals and twinkling fairy lights. A good number of pupils enjoy hearing adults read there after school in 'Tales at Teatime' sessions.

You have put a much stronger focus on mathematical reasoning and give pupils many opportunities to explain their learning. I saw this in several of the classes we visited where it was not enough for pupils to reach the right answers. They had to prove the answer was right by using different methods. Your teachers are very good at helping pupils to visualise the calculations and problems by using resources such as counters, bricks and illustrating answers with images. You reinforce understanding by giving pupils many opportunities to apply what they have learned in different ways and by linking learning to real life situations.

Parents told me that they need help in understanding the work their children do and how much they have appreciated the workshop sessions you provided for them so that they are better able to help their children.

You work closely with the local authority education and welfare officer and, as a result, the number of pupils who are persistently absent is reducing, especially for specific groups such as disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Your decision to open the school to pupils a little earlier and to allow them to come in as soon as they arrive is proving effective in improving attendance as well as supporting a lively breakfast club. You take a firm line with parents and never authorise holidays in term time. Pupils told me they like the various rewards they gain for good attendance each week.

I am very proud of the children, staff, and governors and thank them all for their hard work. My thanks go to all of you too for the support you give to me, the children and the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Fenna
Headteacher