



5th April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Improvement Work Update

As you will be aware, from previous correspondence, as a result of our Ofsted Inspection in December 2017, we have been having regular meetings with both colleagues from Durham County Council and from the Diocese, to support and ensure the school is moving forward, to meet the areas of improvement identified by the Ofsted Inspectors. As a result of many months of hard work and dedication from all staff, and a very successful County and Diocese Health Check Review, the school no longer needs to continue these meetings, as both County and the Diocese feel very confident that the school is in a good place. They are confident that we will work towards a successful Ofsted outcome in the near future.

We hope that you are as delighted with this step forward as we are. Both County and the Diocese are confident that there is clear evidence that leaders have, and are, taking action to address the issues from the inspection.

County and Diocese Health Check Review:

Improving the quality of teaching and learning

- Teaching and learning has strengthened because of raised expectations such as the match of activities and challenge for pupils.
- Strong aspects of teaching were seen across the school.
- Time in lessons is used very well and teachers have consistently high expectations of what children can achieve.
- Teachers have very good subject knowledge and match the work very well to the needs of different groups.

Promoting positive learning behaviours across all classes

- There is clear evidence that behaviour has strengthened securely and is impacting positively on learning.
- Pupils behaviour in and around school is very positive.
- Pupils are polite and courteous.
- Leaders have given high priority to promoting pupils' personal development and have developed a consistent approach in managing behaviour.
- Pupils play well together and are co-operative with one another.

Enabling pupils to develop subject-specific knowledge and skills in subjects, including Science, History and Religious Studies in greater depth

- Much work has been carried out with all staff to further develop subject knowledge in History and Geography.
- The enquiry-based system which is in place has resulted in providing a wider evidence base in pupils work in those subjects including RE.
- Books are marked regularly and are well presented.
- The quality of work in foundation subject books has strengthened greatly across the school.
- Marking extends pupils learning and pupils respond appropriately.

To further develop the role of middle leaders

- Middle leaders have increased their monitoring which is impacting positively upon teaching and learning.
- The monitoring of leaders is co-ordinated and makes best use of time to support school improvement priorities.

Strengthen systems to diagnose, support and track the progress and needs of pupils who have SEN

- Leaders have secured a range of various interventions across the school.
- Systems have been strengthened and progress of SEN pupils is tracked to enable a positive impact on SEN progress.

To further enhance the roles of new governors to enable them to hold leaders to account

- Governors have worked hard to ensure there is a clear set of skills on the Governing Body.
- Governors have taken action to establish a strong induction programme and been successful in recruiting new Governors.

Yours faithfully

K. Harrison-Brown

Mrs K. Harrison-Brown
Head Teacher