



St. James' Church of England V.A. Lower School

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23rd February, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

After much anticipation, we have received our letter from Ofsted confirming the judgements following the recent inspection. We are delighted to be able to now share this with you on our website for all parents and carers to read and it will be published on the Ofsted website on 28th February. Paper copies can be requested from the School Office, if needed.

You will read that St James' continues to be a **Good School** having 'maintained the good quality of education' since the last inspection. Given the significant changes St James' has experienced, we are really pleased that the actions taken in the last two years have had such a positive impact, and have moved the 'school forward rapidly'.

We are delighted that our inspector recognised the numerous strengths of our school and there are many highlights within the letter:

- The high standards in English and maths, improving outcomes for all learners, including the most disadvantaged, and that 'all pupils are making good progress from their starting points', as a result of good teaching and learning
- In the particular areas of writing and maths (which were areas identified for improvement in our previous inspection), we have made good progress: writing in other subjects shows a 'marked improvement' and 'Maths has a high profile and 'Importantly, pupils are enjoying the subject and they are confident to "have a go"'.
- In the early years, our inspector found 'significant improvements in the quality of provision to raise attainment' and that 'Children's personal development is catered for extremely well'
- The Head Teacher's 'incisive' leadership and 'inspiring high ambition for staff and pupils to flourish as learners'
- The Governors 'provide effective governance', with effective challenge and support.
- All 'safeguarding arrangements are of high quality', and there is a culture of shared responsibility for children's safety and well-being.
- 'The school is in safe hands moving forward'

We were particularly pleased and proud to read about the support and 'glowing comments' you made. To have such a positive views shared by parents and carers is not always seen at other schools and we have been humbled by what you have said. Your support is always appreciated and to know that you value the work we do with your children is hugely important to us all – Thank you.

On the day of the inspection, your children were a credit to you and to our school family. We know that they are proud of their school and what they can achieve here, but to have it recognised by the Inspector so clearly shows what we always knew - that St James' is a truly special place. It is the children that make our school community what it is and we could not be more proud of them!

The areas for improvement suggested by the inspector were not surprising to us. They match precisely with our already agreed school priorities and the fact that the Inspector supports our plans, tells us that we know our school well and are well prepared to ensure success in the future.

We are an ambitious and aspirational team of staff and governors and are proud of everything we have achieved together in the past two years. We are determined that our school will never stand still and we will always strive for better and better outcomes with higher and higher achievements – over the next three years, we will continue to work hard, in partnership with you, to secure even more positive results for your children and our school.

We hope that you find the Ofsted letter interesting and enjoyable to read – we did!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Perry', enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Tom Perry
Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Soulsby', followed by a period.

Maria Soulsby
Head Teacher

