



*We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together*

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Dear parents and carers

## **Catholic Schools Inspectorate Report**

I am delighted to be able to share with you a report following the Section 48 Inspection carried out by four inspectors from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate on behalf of Cardinal Vincent Nichols on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. We are delighted with the report which ratifies most of the judgements that we ourselves made about the school prior to the inspection in our self-evaluation document. In fact, the development points were drawn from our own reflections, which is pleasing.

We are one of the first schools in the Diocese to be inspected under a new and rigorous inspection framework and you will note that there is now an overall grade for each school. This is a new addition to the framework. We have been graded as 'good' overall, but it is noted that our Collective Worship & Catholic Life and Mission are 'outstanding'. There has been much discussion very recently whether one overall grade can really sum up the complex uniqueness of any one school and I would agree! Please read the narrative of the report carefully as this sums up our school's qualities well.

The measure of a great school can only be interpreted through the experience of individuals within it and their impact on society. Our children love their RE and engage extremely well with its relevance; they participate enthusiastically and with great reverence in their Collective Worship and take a lead in this whenever they can; and they respond with enthusiasm to all aspects of Catholic Life and Mission, understanding that their actions in the world can make a real difference.

As far as I am aware, we are the only school in the Diocese who has written its own RE programme, rather than using a commercially available scheme. We have arranged this to ensure that it meets the needs of our pupils and our context, whilst being aligned to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and to ensure that our children can be challenged well whilst taking a creative and engaging approach to their studies. This was recognised by the inspectors when they visited, and we should be immensely proud of this.

In a covering letter which accompanied the final report, the Chief Inspector of schools, Nancy Conoby, said:

*"The report highlights very well the centrality of the Gospel in the School and the pupils' enthusiastic response to the call to action locally, nationally and globally. It is clear that*



St Vincent's is Catholic in the fullest sense and works to serve the community. The school's work with the 'Red Shed' and the intergenerational interaction between the children and members, is a project which truly embodies the ethos of the school and should be adopted by other Diocesan schools. Modern society presents us with many challenges but the pastoral care you provide for pupils and staff is exemplary and undoubtedly underpins their growth and development. The thought, time and energy applied to developing Religious Education has resulted in a creative and engaging curriculum the children enjoy and see the relevance of. The investment in your staff in terms of support and CPD, is clearly having a significant impact on the quality of the teaching and learning and will continue to do so. St Vincent's is a community focused on the development of the whole person, and I have no doubt that your varied, thoughtful and sensory approach to prayer will allow the children to continue to develop spiritually and grow in faith."

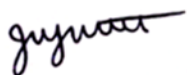
Nancy's comments act as an excellent summary of what we do so well at St Vincent de Paul School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support of our school and its unique mission. The inspectors were mightily impressed by the considerable number of families (175) that responded to their questionnaire at such short notice. You will see that the views of many parents have been reflected in the final report which is pleasing.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the RE Leadership Team, all Senior Leaders, the Governing Body, the entire staff team and all the children for all that they have done to make the Catholic nature of our school so visibly active and vibrant. TeamStVdeP has much to be thankful for!

I do hope that you enjoy reading the report.

May God bless you and those most dear to you.



**Jon White**  
Headteacher



**John Sloan**  
Chair of Governors

