

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sally Nutman

12th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Inspection Report December 2017

Today you will receive a copy of the latest Ofsted Inspection Report. You will recall that following the inspection in October 2016 the school went into Special Measures because safeguarding was ineffective. The action plan devised by the local authority and the governing body ensured that safeguarding was deemed effective in June by Her Majesty's Inspector in her monitoring visit.

In December 2017 Ofsted visited again and the good news is the school has been taken out of Special Measures because safeguarding is effective and the targets from the monitoring visit had been met.

Firstly, can I thank the local authority, the diocese and Janet Mullally (Deputy Headteacher, Sacred Heart) and Kevin Stoner (Assistant Headteacher, Sacred Heart) who worked with me and Mrs Hopkinson over the last term and the inspection.

The key messages from the inspection are that one term has not been long enough to implement the changes that the senior teachers recognise are important to ensure teaching and learning is really strong in school. Although at year 6, year 2, year 1 and reception school results are really good, we need to ensure that every child makes good progress every year.

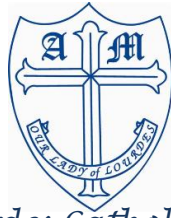
The senior teachers from Our Lady of Lourdes and Sacred Heart really do want to achieve this for every child and importantly the teachers and other staffs at Our Lady of Lourdes are *'a united team who are committed to improving the school.'*

This week we have secured developmental support from the South East Essex Teaching Alliance to help us ensure good progress in mathematics, English and the early years (reception). There is a broad range of other training provision that staff are accessing to improve the quality of teaching.

Again this week £30,000 of Smartboards have been installed in years 1 to 6 to improve the quality of the classroom environment – a thank you to Paul Turner (ICT Technician from Sacred Heart) for his weekend work.

We appreciate that whilst 'Requires Improvement' is not the judgement that we would want to describe our school. We are pleased that this report underlines our understanding of what needs to be improved and provides a mandate for that improvement. You will read in the report that systems put in place have not had long enough to impact. A lot of change has already been implemented in the autumn term and the spring and summer terms will be the periods of embedding and continuing these changes to ensure more children make good progress in all areas of the curriculum.

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May I take this opportunity to thank the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes for their resilience in what has been a difficult fifteen months. May I also take the opportunity to thank them for their support in this time of change. It is important to thank the governors and staff at Sacred Heart who have worked with us in so many ways in this first term.

There are so many good things happening at Our Lady of Lourdes, what is important now is the journey of continuing to improve, to ensure that the provision meets the need of every child. The inspection team and the governors have confidence in the leadership team to implement that necessary change.

Thank you for your continued support as we go forward.

Sally Nutman

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