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5th January 2022

Ofsted Inspection 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governors and staff have just received the Ofsted report from the inspection that took place on 19-20th October 2021 and we attach a copy which we are sharing with you today.

The overall verdict that the school “Requires Improvement” is very disappointing and makes for some difficult reading. Although we were aware that some areas, such as the new programmes in Phonics and Mathematics needed more time to become embedded, the overall judgement comes as a surprise. It is true that our last inspection was 14 years ago and a new and more rigorous Ofsted framework was introduced in 2019, and then revised in September 2021. The school is also still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic that has caused immense upheaval to pupils’ education over the last two years. Nevertheless, we did not expect this result since all previous indicators including regular Local Authority (RBKC) and Diocese (LDBS) advisor visits and audits, have shown our school to be doing well, with our results, especially Key Stage 2 SATs, consistently above the national average (to see our latest published data, please [follow this link](#)).

In response to the Ofsted verdict, Governors therefore submitted a challenge, with the support of both the RBKC and LDBS. However, we recognise the importance now of learning from the judgements and implementing the improvements necessary to bring our school to ‘Good’ within the new Ofsted framework as soon as possible.

In the report the Inspectors recognise much that is to be celebrated in our school, in particular the personal development of pupils, our clear Christian values, sense of community and belonging, strong cultural capital and regular educational visits. The report also highlights our strong and effective safeguarding, good inclusion and diversity, sports provision and extra-curricular activities, and the clear focus we place on the well-being of staff and pupils.

During the Inspection, our pupils responded positively and were a credit to you and the school. They spoke with enthusiasm about their school experience and we are proud that so many said that they feel happy and safe at school. Equally, the feedback from parents was very good and it was clear that many of you value our ethos and nurture of your children.

The Inspectors did however identify areas that require improvement, including Early Years Phonics and Mathematics. These both already figure as priorities in our School Improvement Plan, but clearly we need to do more, and in other curriculum areas as well. Governors and Senior Leaders alike are convinced that this challenge is an opportunity for our school. We are determined to implement all necessary changes so that we can demonstrate the high quality of our school when Ofsted make their follow-up visit in autumn 2022. Already Phonics timetables have been adjusted, pupil assessments carried out and sequencing of subject plans is being re-evaluated.

However, we want to go further. As a result, Governors and Senior Leaders have commissioned school-to-school support from an experienced external improvement team who are currently working with our Senior Leaders to draw up an action plan which will address all improvement points outlined in the report. An improvement board, set up with the support of the Local Authority, will then monitor progress. We look forward to sharing more news of this in the next few weeks.

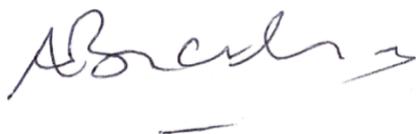
In the meantime, we can assure you that our school community continues to be focused on ensuring that our pupils can achieve their best and leave our school well prepared as active citizens for their journey in secondary school. We continue to prioritise raising achievement in the core skills of reading, writing and maths. The recovery curriculum, put in place following the pandemic lockdown, is being developed to ensure your children make good progress towards year-end targets. We are particularly encouraged by results of the Phonics assessments carried out since the Inspection.

Looking ahead, we are confident that the action plan will open new and promising ways of realising the potential of each child through raising expectations in every area of school life.

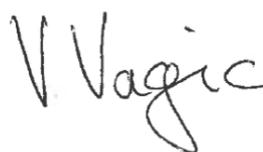
We understand that the result of this Ofsted Inspection will come as a shock to many parents. In order to respond to any questions or concerns you may have, Governors and Senior Leaders would like to invite you to a **Parent Meeting on Tuesday 11th January at 6pm**. We do hope you will be able to attend. Please also do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher or Governors should you wish to discuss further.

Thank you for your continued support of and partnership in our wonderful school.

Yours sincerely,



Revd Andy Buckler
Chair of Governors



Vera Vagic
Headteacher