



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Gladstone Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8NE

Executive Headteacher - Mr P Ackers

Headteacher - Mr S D Groarke

Deputy Headteacher - Mrs S Rudd

15 February 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has now been twelve months since our Ofsted inspection, and together with the ongoing support of the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT, the school is working tirelessly to move on and address the issues highlighted.

The first Ofsted Executive Board meeting of 2019 took place on 4th February and we were delighted to welcome Mr Ackers to the meeting in his new role as Executive Head of St Mary's, supporting Mrs Rudd (Acting Head Teacher). Also present alongside Sean McClafferty, CEO to the trust and Kate Mann, Director of Performance and Standards, was Adrian Francis, an external education advisor. Senior and middle leaders were also invited, in order that the board could ascertain how the school was progressing, and how they were both facilitating and managing it.

During the meeting, the following areas were discussed:

Developments in Catholic Life at St Mary's School

In January we said goodbye to Father Greg, our Parish Priest, but also gave a warm welcome to our new priest Father Martin Sylvester. Mrs Rudd has been in contact with Fr Martin in order to create a unity between the school and Parish. It is also hoped that with the new schedule of Mass that is set to change very soon, this will allow stronger bonds to form between Fr Martin and families both at the church and school.

The new Chaplaincy team is now fully active, and Mrs Hall is developing her role in leading this. They have been supported by Joe Hopkins, the lead Lay Chaplain for the trust, and they are currently planning worships and charity events for the coming year. Joe Hopkins has also been supporting the staff on enabling pupil leadership in collective worship.

The RE action plan has been established and reviewed by David Quinn and Ann King on behalf of the Diocese and Mr Quinn has been providing support on the planning, teaching and learning of RE to all teaching staff.

To improve the quality of leadership and management to secure and sustain improvements in the quality of teaching and pupil outcomes

The school is receiving a great level of support put in place by the trust and there have been continued sources of specialist knowledge brought in to school from Specialist Leaders in Education, to support our senior and middle leaders. Considerable effort and investment are in place to ensure the leadership team at all levels are having sufficient training to ensure proficiency in carrying out their roles effectively





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The Senior leadership team and I, as Chair of Governors, were involved in establishing a strategic vision for the school as directed by the CMAT, with the additional help of a National Leader of Governance, contracted in by the trust. This will provide a vision of where we are aiming for the school to be, and will be made available on the website, which is in the process of being audited and updated significantly in the very near future. Key performance indicators were also established as a measure of success in moving the school forward.

There is also a considerable emphasis on parental engagement and communication going forward. Mr Ackers has held two parent meetings to introduce himself and has asked for parents to volunteer to form a parent council, which will become operational after half term. It is hoped it will serve to develop communication, work towards effective problem solving and improve parent/school partnerships. Further to this, questionnaires have been circulated for parental views on communication and homework. Further questionnaires will continue to be circulated for the important parent viewpoint, which we value as a school.

To Improve the Quality of Teaching, Learning and assessment

Monitoring pupil progress has been a major focus and a clear schedule is now in situ, this includes a robust program of lesson observations, drop ins, learning walks, book scrutinies, and pupil interviews.

Year six are currently receiving a daily booster session which is well attended to prepare the class for their SATs.

Staff have received training to promote effective delivery of Maths, Reading and Writing, and Pupil Progress meetings are a regular feature each half term to ensure all children are receiving the best education to meet their needs. With the support of our SENCo, Ann King, who is going to be with us for the foreseeable future, this will focus on no group of children being left behind.

To improve pupil behaviour, welfare and attendance

Attendance is still proving to be an issue for St Mary's which is currently at 95.5%. The standard we want to achieve is 97%.

In addition to Mrs Rudd, Miss Gilmore and Mrs Hall are the Designated Safeguarding Leads and have undergone extensive training. They are actively working to improve attendance, monitoring and making phone calls to ascertain pupil's whereabouts. Persistent absence can be an indicator of other safeguarding issues in families, therefore it is vital that early contact is made to ensure pupil wellbeing.





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Attendance rates have been given prominence with percentages being clearly displayed in the corridor near the reception area. 100% attendance of individual pupils will be awarded half termly during the half term honours awards, to which parents are invited. Weekly percentages are also calculated on a year group basis, to provide a competitive element to reinforce the importance of good attendance and a trophy awarded to the best attending year group. These weekly percentages are displayed on the Friday letter also.

We value all your support in helping us achieve a better rate of attendance.

Improve Governance of the school

The Governing Body continues to face a transitional period, and at present consists of myself as Chair and Damien Bell (Vice Chair).

Parent Governor nomination forms have been made available for parents to come forward and fill our two current vacancies. We also have an application currently being processed for a Foundation Governor and hope to have all individuals in place before the next Local Governing Body meeting on the 4th March.

At this point I would like to thank you all for your continued support for the school. It is a difficult time, but there are green shoots finally showing through and the school is beginning to show an indication of moving towards being the great school it deserves to be.

God Bless,

Sam Buller (Chair of Governors)

