



St. Alban's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Diocese of Hallam in Partnership with Doncaster LA

Wadworth Street, Denaby Main, Doncaster DN12 4AQ

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Head Teacher: Mrs. Lindsey Ebsworth

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss. Clare Brennan

Wednesday 6th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are pleased to finally be able to share with you, our Ofsted Report, which will be published on the Ofsted website <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> within the next few days. During the two day visit in January, inspectors observed and witnessed the 'significant change...and strengths around behaviour, conduct, early years and the opportunities for pupils to develop character' and saw first-hand that the children throughout school are, 'happy... feel safe...listen attentively in lessons... and are polite and courteous'. Inspectors observed, as we already know, that, 'staff and pupils have strong, positive relationships'.

Ofsted inspectors spoke in detail with myself, Miss Brennan as Deputy Headteacher and our Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors, among other staff, and celebrated our 'drive and determination for success', recognising that we, as senior leaders, 'know what is required to improve the school ... and some of the changes...have had an instant impact'. The inspectors noted that school leaders, 'are ambitious and determined pupils will achieve well'. They stated also that leaders, 'provide a broad curriculum and efforts are being made to ensure that it is delivered consistently well' and as a result of our work, children at St Alban's, 'build resilience, responsibility and have respect for others. Pupils behave well.' We are so very proud of all our children's achievements in all that they do and in every step forward they make, personally, spiritually and academically, every day, every term, every year.

There are 5 judgements given within the new Ofsted framework and St Alban's this time secured 'GOOD' judgements in 3 of the 5 areas. The GOOD judgements were given for Behaviour and attitudes, Personal development and Early years provision. The other two judgements are based on the quality of education (our curriculum) and the leadership and management of this – both of these areas have been the most recent focus of improvement within our school priorities, rightly focused on the development of our new curriculum and the professional advancement of our new leaders. Despite the steep trajectory and significant improvements in these areas, as the impact of the children's learning is obviously yet to be seen, these areas are still improving. Although the majority of our judgements are 'GOOD', as the curriculum and leadership and management of this, require further development, the overall effectiveness judgement for St Alban's is REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT.

Based on both overall Ofsted judgements in 2018 and in 2022, it appears on the surface that no improvements have been made, however as we all know, and Ofsted themselves acknowledged, there has been 'significant change'. However, the Ofsted framework has also changed in the last four years; we have suffered a global pandemic in two of those four years; and our strong end of KS2 data is no longer used as evidence within this new Ofsted framework. We know at first, the overall effectiveness judgement may be disappointing to some, but when reflecting on the report and on commentary by the inspectors themselves, as Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Governors, we know exactly what is great at St Alban's and what needs to improve, which is what was rightly prioritised in our School Development Plan. Due to COVID 19, our new curriculum was delayed, however in September, after returning to more normality in school, our teachers, new to subject leadership, led and supported by senior leaders,

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embarked on their determined journey to improve our curriculum in areas such as History, Art, PE and Music etc. They ensured our children are provided with a rich provision that allows them to become great geographers, designers and computing experts, to name but a few. This is a journey that will never end as we will continue to develop the curriculum to suit our St Alban's learners as time goes by. We had certainly not yet reached our destination when Ofsted inspected in January 2022.

Developing our curriculum and all of our subject leaders, is paramount in ensuring that our children receive the very best academic education, but what is vital and GOOD already, is that our children are developing well as unique individuals, their behaviour is good and their attitudes to learning are fantastic! In addition to this, our children have a great start to St Alban's in our new Nursery and Reception classes and learn to read well at an early age. Already, we are successful in providing these great foundations, and our children are ready to fly with our dynamic teachers, phase leaders and subject leaders, who will continue to soar with them in all areas of school life. This Ofsted inspection did not take account of the strong Catholic life of our school, which is inspected separately (GOOD, 2016). The significance we place on spiritual development through prayer and liturgies, mindfulness and meditation, and our children as faith leaders; members of the Mini Vinnies, Faith in Action and Gospel Warriors groups, ensures our children journey through St Alban's, deepening their understanding and leave as well-rounded human beings and active Christians.

As parents, carers, governors and parishioners, you already know that our school has been on an incredible journey of improvement including the: purchase of resources, such as iPads and laptops; increase in expertise throughout school; refurbished purposeful learning environments, developed outdoor spaces; strengthened relationships with our parish; and a curriculum that meets the needs of our 21st century learners. St Alban's is the school of choice for Catholic and non-Catholic families in Denaby, Conisbrough, Mexbrough and further afield who prefer a church school that holistically nurtures their child to be the best that they can be spiritually, morally, personally, socially, and of course, academically. What is most important in all of this, is that our children returned in September 2021 to a 'new school' and are happier than ever, love their lessons and outdoor spaces, and are making accelerated progress in their learning to close gaps that developed over the pandemic.

We thank you for the gracious, loyal and continuous support that you have shown myself as Headteacher and every member of our St Alban's team. The Ofsted Parent View outcomes are overwhelmingly positive and we thank everyone who has completed this - please do so, if you haven't already. Working in partnership with parents and carers has the most positive impact on children's well-being and progress, therefore we openly encourage all parents and carers to email or see staff to arrange an appointment rather than leave any issue unresolved. We continue on our mission to ensure your children receive the very best at St Alban's and thank you for supporting us to make a real difference to their lives.

God bless,



Lindsey Ebsworth, Headteacher

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