



St Paul's

Catholic Junior School

Love God Love Life Love Learning

14th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we would like to thank you for the support, encouragement and kindness you have shown our school community throughout the process.

We know that inspection outcomes nationally have caused confusion for many families, particularly following the introduction of the new Ofsted framework. With this in mind, we wanted to share both the findings from our report and some important context about how schools are now being inspected.

Understanding the New Ofsted Framework

Ofsted has made significant changes to the way schools are inspected. One of the biggest changes is that the judgement "Expected" is now considerably harder to achieve than the previous judgement of "Good".

Inspectors now work to what is known as a "secure fit" model. This means schools are expected to meet every aspect of the criteria fully, rather than inspectors reaching an overall "best fit" judgement based on the broader picture.

As a result, direct comparisons between previous inspection grades and current outcomes are not always appropriate. The expectations, evidence requirements and level of scrutiny are all substantially higher.

It is also important to understand that where reports identify areas as "Needs Attention", this is not a fail. Ofsted's own guidance makes clear that this judgement indicates areas that require further development or embedding, something that is common for schools nationally under the revised framework.

Link below to Ofsted guide for parents and carers:

<https://youtu.be/kbl0FvY976g?si=3H1xLJhGfY7mlk4u>

Strengths Identified in Our Report

We are very proud that inspectors recognised many important strengths within St Paul's and acknowledged the caring, inclusive and nurturing environment our staff work hard to provide every day.

The report states that:

"Pupils at St Paul's feel loved, valued and included in day-to-day school life."

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Inspectors also recognised the strong relationships across the school, noting that:

“Relationships between staff and pupils are positive and trusting. This helps to ensure that pupils are safe and secure.”

The inspection confirmed that safeguarding standards are fully met and that the school has:

“an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.”

We were particularly pleased that inspectors recognised inclusion as an “Expected standard” area and highlighted the school’s commitment to supporting pupils with additional needs. The report states:

“Inclusion is a visible priority across the school.”

Inspectors praised the work of our Hub provision and recognised how staff carefully support pupils to overcome barriers to learning and successfully reintegrate into mainstream classrooms.

The report also highlighted pupils’ personal development as:

“a notable feature of the school.”

Inspectors recognised the values-based culture within St Paul’s, including pupils’ understanding of kindness, resilience and responsibility. In particular, inspectors recognised how our core values — *Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Resilient* — are lived out across school life each day.

These values continue to underpin all that we do and remain central to our vision for every child.

The report also praised pupils’ leadership opportunities through roles such as house captains, Mini Vinnies, councillors and Heads of School, alongside the wide range of enrichment opportunities available.

We were also delighted that the report recognised the breadth of opportunities offered beyond the classroom, including sports, drama, philosophy, girls’ rights clubs and community projects that help pupils develop confidence and ambition.

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Attendance and behaviour were judged to meet the “Expected standard”, with inspectors noting that:

- attendance has improved over time;
- pupils behave calmly and respectfully;
- bullying is not tolerated;
- pupils feel safe and supported.

The report also recognised the commitment and care of staff, stating:

“Staff report that leaders consider their workload and wellbeing when they make decisions. They are respected and supported.”

Areas for Further Improvement

As a school, we fully accept the areas identified for development and have already begun significant work to address them.

The report highlights the need to:

- strengthen consistency in teaching across the school;
- further improve writing and mathematical fluency;
- ensure assessment information is used more precisely to address gaps in learning;
- strengthen leadership oversight and evaluation.

Inspectors acknowledged that leaders understand these priorities clearly and have already begun implementing strategies to improve outcomes further.

A Stronger Emphasis on Data

One of the most significant changes within the new framework is the increased emphasis placed upon published attainment data and attendance figures.

Inspection outcomes are now heavily influenced by:

- overall attainment outcomes;
- national comparisons;
- attendance and persistent absence figures.

This means that schools providing strong pastoral care, inclusive support and positive day-to-day experiences for children may still receive challenging outcomes where data does not align closely with national expectations.

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Looking Forward

Whilst inspection outcomes matter, what matters most to us remains unchanged:

- ensuring every child feels safe, valued and supported;
- helping pupils flourish academically, personally and spiritually;
- maintaining high expectations for all children;
- continuing to improve so every pupil achieves their very best.

We are proud of our pupils, grateful for our dedicated staff and thankful for the partnership we share with families.

The inspection process recognised many of the qualities that make St Paul's such a special community: warmth, inclusion, care, ambition and strong relationships. At the same time, it has given us clear next steps that we are determined to address with urgency and purpose.

Thank you once again for your continued trust and support.

Yours sincerely,

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