

# The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School

Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH



**HEAD TEACHER** Mrs Carmel Dodds **DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Miss Dominique Smith

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Wednesday, 10 January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

## **OFSTED Monitoring Visit – The Good Shepherd Primary November 2023**

As most of you know, we welcomed OFSTED to our school in November and they truly sampled the lively spirit of Christmas here in Good Shepherd with our nativity, advent service and choral concert preparations were in full flow! We are delighted to share with you some positive news.

The visit was part of a routine monitoring process, to identify and report on our progress since last year's Inspection.

We are happy to share that their feedback was positive and in recognition of our 'robust' response to their previous recommendations. The report findings reflect the dedication and hard work of our staff and students, and the support we receive from you our parent community every day.

The main areas previously identified in the last Inspection for areas of progress were in relation to the curriculum, SEND provision and governance. The new report recognises that our staff have worked incredibly hard, whilst working with and supported by external organisations and our Trust (OLICAT Schools) in order to implement the necessary changes.

I have highlighted some of the report feedback below:

### **Curriculum**

"The school's curriculum has been transformed."

"The school has prioritised the development of the curriculum...you have ensured that the curriculum for all subjects is now fully mapped out so that it prioritises the key knowledge and skills that pupils should gain"

### **SEND**

"There has been training for staff to help improve their understanding of how best to support pupils with SEND in their learning. These pupils get the support they need and enjoy learning alongside their peers in the classroom. Staff say that they feel better informed and have the confidence to adapt their teaching to support these pupils' needs."



#### **Website**

www.olicatschools.org

#### **Strategic Executive Lead**

Mr Tony Bishop

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate  
Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas  
More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne  
Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL

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## Governance

Governors have “worked hard to develop a strategic approach when holding leaders to account for the quality of learning in the school. Governors understand the school’s priorities and challenge leaders on the impact of their decisions and actions. Governors and leaders are mindful of staff workload and well-being. Staff morale is positive. Staff are supportive of the changes that leaders are making.”

## Next Steps:

We agree with the report that our next step is to continue to develop the implementation of the curriculum and we will ensure to keep you updated on progress with this. We are confident that we are on the correct track to achieving a positive outcome at our next Visit.

Staff and myself have been heartened by your feedback since we introduced our new curriculum in September 2022 just after the last visit. I am fortunate to see this in action daily and so was our inspector on the day who after observing year 1 children writing independently, year 2 discussing London architecture pre and post great fire of London, year 4 making bread, year 3 in a PE & history lesson, Reception in the forest school, year 5’s pupil voice during Maths, year 6 dissection lesson and reception in forest school felt we were preparing them well for their future. In their discussions with inspectors your children were so confident and articulate when they spoke about their learning.

We are extremely grateful to be part of such a supportive family of schools within OLICAT and the Diocese and to have support from our Local Academy Committee. Our thanks to all of those people and finally, we wish to thank you again for all your continued support and involvement in your child’s education, as we look ahead on our journey of continuous improvement. With our mission statement at the heart of all we do, *‘Following Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in all we say and do’*, we strive to ensure that all children in our school can access their learning and have opportunities to help them follow their dreams and become well rounded individuals. If you have any questions regarding the report or our next steps, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office or have a conversation with myself on the gate.

God Bless

Carmel Dodds

Headteacher