



May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the Catholic School Inspection which took place at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stourbridge on 2nd and 3rd April 2025, I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors to share the wonderful report.

The Catholic School Inspection superseded the Section 48 Inspection from 1st September 2022 and is a much more stringent inspection.

We are absolutely delighted that St Joseph's secured a Grade 1, 'Outstanding' judgement in every single category and sub-section, resulting in a Grade 1, 'Outstanding' for overall effectiveness. This is an absolutely phenomenal achievement and testament to the hard work and dedication of every single leader, staff member, governor, Fr Philip, Parish Priest and to the support of the parent body.

It is a joy to read the many positive comments about the school in the report, such as:

'The school is consistently described as a place of welcome, family, and community. Pupils deeply value and celebrate the differences and talents of everyone, demonstrating pride and commitment in their proactive participation in the chaplaincy provision, each aspect having its own motto and action plan.'

'The energy and commitment of leaders and governors are inspirational. Catholic life and mission are a clear priority, and the school has strong links with the diocese. This truly is a 'parish' school, serving the local parish and offering considerable support to parents who comment that they have an excellent knowledge of their child's progress through staff's openness to enquiry.'

'Pupil knowledge is excellent, reinforced by regular recall activities such as 'sticky knowledge'. Achievement by all is the best possible, and that of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is remarkable. Pupils' religious literacy is excellent; they make links in a sophisticated and powerful way, happily collaborating and debating their ideas.'

'Pupils have an excellent understanding of the variety of Catholic ways of praying, including spontaneous prayer in times of challenge or difficulty, which one pupil describes as 'a quiet chat with God'. Pupils have a real sense that faith can lead to action.'

'Parents greatly appreciate the invitations to be part of the prayer and liturgical life of the school, and the regular 'Stay and Pray' sessions are particularly appreciated.'

Many thanks to leaders, staff, local governing body members, pupils, parents and Fr. Philip for the part that you have played in this achievement and for your continued commitment to St Joseph's.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Griffin

Chair of the Board of Directors

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Our journey with Christ

