



Overleigh St. Mary's CoE  
Primary School



Ofsted report and next steps  
September 2014

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to circulate our recent Ofsted inspection report. We received a phone call on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July to inform us that we were to be inspected over the subsequent 2 days and that the inspectors would be with us at 8am the following morning. Staff, governors and parents were informed and we all made sure that we were ready to show to the inspection team what a unique and special learning environment we have at Overleigh.

I received the final report today and it has now been published on the Ofsted website.

***'This is a good school with outstanding behaviour and safety'***

Every lesson that was observed by the inspection team was judged to be either good or outstanding. A number of joint observations were carried out so that our internal school judgements could be validated.

***'Leaders' judgements about the school's performance are fully accurate'***

I am particularly proud that a number of areas of the school were identified as being **outstanding**. The report states:

- **Outstanding** leadership from the headteacher and a highly effective governing body are key strengths
- The Early Years Foundation Stage is **outstanding** because children rapidly develop a love of learning
- The quality of teaching is consistently good and an increasing amount is **outstanding**
- Pupils' behaviour in and outside of lessons is **outstanding**
- Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage make **outstanding** progress. Their achievement is **outstanding**.
- Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and specialist teachers, for instance for physical education and music, ensure pupils make **outstanding** progress in these subjects
- The school's work to keep pupils safe and secure is **outstanding**
- Pupils have **outstanding** knowledge of and respect for a wide variety of cultures and beliefs
- The headteacher, effectively supported by the senior leaders, makes an **outstanding** impact in the school and on pupils' achievement
- What the school does to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is **outstanding**

I believe that this is a fantastic achievement for the school in 20 months to have improved from a school that was judged to 'require improvement' to a school that has been identified as 'good' with a significant number of outstanding features.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every stakeholder who has been part of the journey of school improvement so far. The teachers, senior leaders, teaching assistants, office, site and canteen staff have all worked tirelessly to ensure that your children have access to the best possible provision and outcomes that we can provide. The governors have rigorously checked on the school's work and have effectively supported and held the Senior Leadership team to account.

The excellent outcome in the report would also not have been possible without the positive attitude of our pupils, underpinned by a unique school ethos and the strong partnership that we have with our parent body. Thank you to all of you for the contribution you have made to our journey so far.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 we have started the next phase in our school improvement journey. You have my promise as headteacher that as a school we will not remain where we are. We must celebrate and recognise the many strengths of the school but we must also look for every opportunity we can to ensure that we are a high performing, successful school in every aspect. Our vision is for Overleigh St. Mary's to be a welcoming, inspirational and inclusive environment where children strive for, and achieve, their true potential – and thus become ready for the modern world and its adventures.

I believe that the potential of Overleigh St. Mary's knows no bounds. We have a committed, highly experienced and high performing staff. We have a governing body that both support and hold the school effectively to account. Our school environment is without parallel. We have wonderful pupils to teach – your children. We are fortunate to have a supportive and engaged parent body.

I look forward to sharing with you next week a review of the academic achievement and attainment for 2013 / 2014 and how we will address the development points highlighted in the Ofsted report.

Happy reading!

Kind regards,

A. Hadfield  
(Headteacher)