



St John's CE (A) Primary School

Wheatly Avenue

Trent Vale

Stoke-on-Trent

ST4 6SB

Ofsted Inspection Visit and Report

12th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find attached our Ofsted report following the inspection visit on 19th and 20th April 2023.

Firstly, can we thank you, as parents and carers and, as part of the St John's community, for your support in helping to shape St. John's towards becoming the school and community we need and want. Further to this we would like to say how much we appreciate you giving us the care of your child/children and the opportunity to work with you, to develop their unique gifts, skills and attitudes as part of our joint commitment to that future journey.

The governors, leaders and wider team have worked incredibly hard to guide the school out of turbulent times which have included changes in leadership and governance, as well as multiple headteachers, a Covid pandemic and also addressing a new and more challenging Ofsted inspection framework since the previous short inspection in January 2018. As parents you have also contributed through the open relationship we want to establish at St. John's. This communication has supported us hugely in this journey which was recognised in the report. So, thank you and well done.

As school leaders we can celebrate that we are determined to ensure the very best education for our children, and that we know our school well. Ofsted validated our judgements, including the journey we have taken so far and where we are taking St. John's next, including our strengths and areas for improvement. Our report says **leaders promote a culture of safeguarding; staff know the pupils and families well**. We are proud of this relationship that we together are establishing between school, home, and the wider community.

We are proud that **leaders are ambitious: they have high aspirations for all pupils**. We knew we needed to make curriculum changes to ensure better outcomes for our pupils in the future and the inspection acknowledged **pupils are benefiting from this ambitious curriculum**. They recognised that we are on a journey and that the work and developments ahead will continue.

The Inspectors also acknowledged the work of our teams in the classrooms and that **pupils behave well in lessons. There is a calm and purposeful working environment in classrooms**. The early years is also improving rapidly and there is a clear vision for this. Our personal, social and cultural development and extra-curricular opportunities were highlighted as good and this strength will support our next steps in further developing pupil behaviours and attitudes.

Ultimately ***pupils enjoy school; they show pride in their school.*** To know our children show this pride is central to the St. John's community that we are shaping; please ensure you praise your children for this, because we certainly will.

As part of our continual school improvement many of the areas identified in the report were already part of our school improvement action plans. For example, in the area of special educational needs we commissioned a 2 day audit in the spring term, prior to Ofsted visit, to support our next steps. Work in the areas identified by ourselves and the Inspectors, has started since the inspection concluded, and are strengthening. We have a strong relationship with our school improvement partner and the Orchard Community Trust, who will support us in this improvement journey. Our full governing board will also continue to play a key role through their link governor visits and addressing school improvement at governor meetings.

There remains hard work ahead for all of us, but we should take time to reflect on the many positive aspects identified in the inspection and the strong foundations we have already put in place for the good of our school and community. We know that with your ongoing support we can continue to take St. John's in this positive direction. Can we thank you as parents for your contribution to your child's education and the school community as a whole.

If you would like to discuss anything further, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and talk to either of us.

Your sincerely

Susan M Bowyer

Head teacher

Laraíne Jones

Chair of Governors