



18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parent & carers,

Following our recent RE inspection which was carried out by two senior CSI inspectors on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, pupils, staff, governors, and I are totally thrilled that external inspectors have seen and recognised the true spirit of our school. Our pupils shone and we could not have been prouder of all of them. Today, I received the final copy of the report and a congratulatory letter from Mrs Catherine Craig, Acting Director of Education, who said:

***“The report clearly shows that Catholic life and mission at St. Joseph's is an integral part of school life where the whole community are committed to following the teaching and example of Jesus. The pastoral care provided by the school highlights the nurturing and caring environment for all.”***

As part of the inspection process, Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship were all explored in great detail by the inspectors, and our pupils were our greatest asset, as they were able to talk about all of their learning and the wide amount of support they receive from all staff. Comments in the report include:

***“The behaviour and conduct of pupils within and beyond the classroom is exemplary.”***

***“Pupils show a deep respect for themselves and for others.”***

***“The pastoral care and inclusive approach for all pupils is exceptional; all pupils understand they are loved and cared for.”***

***“Pupils understand the school's mission deeply; they show joy and enthusiasm in living out the values of Catholic social teaching and demonstrate a deep commitment to making a positive difference.”***

***“Prayer and liturgy are a central part of school life, and pupils play an active part in planning, leading and participating in creative and joyful celebrations with high levels of confidence, understanding and skill.”***

***“The strong culture of welcome for all reflects the high quality of relationships where all are valued without exception, especially those who are most vulnerable.”***

***“Leaders are inspirational exemplars in their respect for the dignity of all.”***

Comments from parents, captured via the anonymous survey include:

***“I've never felt more included and involved in my child's school life. I couldn't have picked a better school.”***

***“Catholic life is at the heart of this school. Children are encouraged to live responsibly, help others and are educated about and celebrate differences. I strongly feel that this school provides my children with the education they need to become responsible young people. Parents are frequently invited to Celebration of the Word throughout the liturgical year and children and reverent and prayerful on these occasions.”***

***“We feel strongly that St. Joseph’s, both as a school and every single wonderful member of staff in it, completely fulfils everything we would want and could possibly ask for in a Catholic school. Thank you so much St. Josephs.”***

***“There is a very caring ethos and the school's small size means everyone is known by name, valued as an individual, and nurtured.”***

Some pupil comments which appear in the report highlight how happy they are at school:

Describing prayer and liturgy, one pupil said the opportunities provided by the school are ***‘making our school a special place to be’***.

Another described leading liturgy as being, ***‘like a mini version of Jesus’***.

A line from the report which captures the ethos of St. Joseph’s perfectly is, ***“Staff and pupils regularly use the phrase ‘to be the face of Jesus’, which exemplifies how they consistently bear witness to the school’s mission.”***

I am attaching the complete copy of the report for you to read, publishing it on the school website and copying it to all staff and governors; I am sure you will all join us in congratulating all of your children for their part in this inspection process.

I am extremely sensitive to the current national news about the pressure and potential trauma and damage experienced by school leaders as a result of statutory inspections, which is why I am focusing on the more complete and holistic way inspectors have recognised our whole school community rather than on a single word grading.

Best wishes,



Mr D. Miller  
Executive Headteacher