

ST MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

In Partnership with St Helen's Primary School



Church Road,
Yate,
South Gloucestershire,
BS37 5BG
Telephone: (01454) 867155
Fax No (01454) 867157
Email office@stmarysyate.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Andrew Spens
Headteacher: Mrs Bethan Scriven
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Natalie Lane
Date: Monday 8th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a good weekend.

On Friday 15th October, St Mary's was inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This inspection takes place approximately every 5 years, however this one was a little delayed due to the postponement of inspections during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The inspection looks to answer the following question:

'How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?'

It was a really positive day and we are pleased to share the report with you today, you'll find a copy attached to this e-mail, but we will also post it on our website.

As a school, we were judged to be 'Good' in all areas. In coming to this judgement, the inspector made five key findings:

Leaders, staff and pupils know and are inspired by the school's vision. The vision is both simple and profound and is lived out daily in the life of the school.

Inspirational leadership results in staff being highly committed to the vision, the associated values and the care of pupils and one another. Consequently, the school, even in the recent challenging times, is a cohesive, happy and flourishing community.

A rich curriculum, driven by the vision and which includes religious education (RE), excites the staff and motivates pupils to learn deeply and to apply their learning to real world situations as 'brave changemakers'.

Partnerships play a central role in the success of the school. The close relationship with their partner primary school is enriching for both pupils and staff. The partnership with the local church is of mutual benefit and it ensures that the practical outworking of the vision is emphasised.

Staff and pupils highly value collective worship and RE as opportunities to reflect on the vision. Older pupils do not have sufficient opportunities to explore RE issues in depth in their writing. Leaders do not directly hear pupil voice enough on collective worship

The report gives you information on how the inspector came to make this judgement, but we wanted to share with you a couple of quotes from the main body of the report which we feel capture the unique and special community that St Mary's is:

'Pupils and staff demonstrate mutual respect and care for each other at St Mary's and there is a tangible sense of joy throughout the school.'

'St Mary's is a school where all flourish, even during the times affected by the pandemic'

The inspector also identified three areas of development for us as a school and we will ensure as leaders and governors that we take these on board and include them in our school development plans over the next few years.

The report is an achievement that the whole community should be proud of as it reflects the commitment of staff, parents and carers, governors and most importantly our children. We would also like to say a huge thank-you to the staff particularly involved in the inspection and to Mrs Humphries and Mrs Bright who lead the school in RE and Collective Worship.

Yours sincerely

Bethan Scriven
Head of School

Natalie Lane
Deputy Head

Andy Spens
Executive Headteacher