

6th March 2023



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to inform you that the final Ofsted inspection report from our two-day section 8, 'ungraded' inspection on the 17th and 18th of January 2023 accompanies this covering letter. The report will also be accessible via the school website and published on the official Ofsted report website, seven working days from today's date.

The purpose of an 'ungraded' inspection is to gauge whether a school continues to be 'good', as indicated in our previous report in November 2017, or to ascertain whether there is evidence to suggest a school is above or below its original grading.

It gives me great pleasure to share that His Majesty's Inspectors and an Ofsted Inspector found that St Michael's Church of England High School continues to be a good school. This is an excellent report, particularly at a time when the benchmark for 'Good' is at the highest level it has ever been.

Considering the journey our school community has been on over the past 18 months, **we are proud to be 'Good'**. The Ofsted inspection was thorough, robust, and professionally rigorous. We look forward to welcoming back the inspection team for a section 5 'graded' inspection, usually within 4 years, to formally judge if there is enough evidence to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding.

I am delighted that the hard work undertaken by Governors and school leaders, at all levels, has been recognised, including the comments regarding our high expectations, Christian ethos, culture of mutual respect, provision for pupils' wider personal development, PSCE, and prioritisation of reading strategies to ensure pupils catch-up and safeguarding provision.

The impact of the quality of education is underpinned by an ambitious and effectively structured curriculum. Ofsted recognised that lessons are structured effectively. Teachers' model tasks skilfully, and they are adept in the way they implement the curriculum. They make good use of different forms of assessment to check what pupils know and understand. As a result, teachers quickly spot where pupils may need additional help.

Please take the time to read the inspection report in full, as it evidences that St Michael's is not only good, but we are a school that continuously strives to improve and excel through our high expectations. The report itself highlights the many elements of effective provision at St Michael's, as well as the next steps needed to take the school forward. What is very satisfying is that the next steps identified were already within our school action plan prior to this inspection, and the associated adaptations are being implemented.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who have supported the school during this time. Once again, may I thank all those involved in the inspection itself, especially the staff, governors, and the students who shone during the inspection process.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Christina Handy-Rivett
Headteacher

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