



# Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Monday, 16 December 2024

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share with you the findings from our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on October 8th and 9th, 2024.

Our school was inspected under the new ungraded framework. Ofsted has recently made some changes to their ungraded inspections where schools no longer receive a single-word grade for overall effectiveness. Instead, the focus is on detailed feedback in specific areas.

I am pleased to inform you that Holy Family Catholic High School continues to be considered a good school by Ofsted. Under the new way of inspecting and reporting on schools, this is now worded as 'Holy Family Catholic High School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection'. In our previous inspection, we were judged to be a good school.

The report is extremely positive and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils, families, and the entire school community. The report highlights several strengths of our school, including:

**Supportive and caring environment:**

Our school is recognised as a supportive and caring community where pupils feel safe and happy. Pupils and students are courteous and respectful, and staff foster strong relationships with them. The school places a strong focus on supporting pupils' emotional health and well-being.

**High expectations and achievement:**

The school has high expectations of pupils' achievement, and typically, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), achieve well. They have high aspirations for all pupils and follow an ambitious curriculum. All pupils are well prepared for the next stage in their education.

**Positive learning environment:**

The school is a calm and positive learning environment and they have established clear routines which pupils understand and follow consistently. Pupils behave extremely well and they have a genuine desire to learn.

**Extracurricular activities:**

Pupils benefit from a vast array of activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, sports, visits to museums and theatres and overseas trips. They enjoy participating in a range of clubs, including sport, music, art and dance. Pupils take pleasure in taking on responsibilities, such as being school ambassadors and supporting local food banks, hospitals and primary schools.

Oracy skills and reading:

The school places a strong emphasis on developing pupils' oracy skills, which helps to build their confidence. The school prioritises reading. Pupils receive appropriate support from expert staff. This helps them to develop their reading and writing skills. Pupils have opportunities to read ambitious texts and develop their comprehension skills well. They develop a love of reading through regular reading sessions. This guides pupils to develop their confidence and fluency in reading.

While we celebrate these achievements, we are also mindful of areas for improvement. The report notes that in a very small number of subjects, some staff do not always check carefully enough that pupils' knowledge is secure before moving on to new learning. We are committed to addressing this and ensuring that all pupils receive the support they need to succeed.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support and encouragement. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of our pupils.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the report further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Mr Symes