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5 November 2020

Sharon Betts  
Headteacher  
St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Wimborne  
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Dear Mrs Betts

### **Ofsted visit to St Catherine's Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit with Jen Southall, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 22 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you, including a discussion of your safeguarding responsibilities. A deputy headteacher from another of the trust's schools, who has been helping with the curriculum, attended for part of the visit. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

## **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

### **From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- The school opened to all pupils on the 7 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is above the usual attendance figure seen at this time of year.
- All pupils are studying every subject of the curriculum. You are prioritising personal, social, health and economic education to help pupils feel settled and supported.
- There are practical aspects of some subjects, including design and technology, physical education and music, that are not currently being taught. You plan to return pupils to the normal curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers are completing assessments to find out what pupils know and can remember in reading, writing and mathematics. This information will be used to help pupils catch up in these subjects.
- Reading is a priority. Teachers are promoting reading, including phonics catch-up for pupils who need it, particularly in Years 1 to 3. Teachers are also focusing on improving pupils' understanding of what they are reading.

- In mathematics, teachers have identified gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding of number, particularly place value. You are also helping pupils to gain speed and confidence in solving mathematical problems.
- You have plans to deliver the curriculum remotely, should this be needed. Teachers will use a combination of paper packs, the school's website and digital programs to deliver the curriculum and maintain communication between home and school.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer of Plymouth CAST multi-academy trust, the director of education for the diocese of Plymouth, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Dorset. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Gale  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**