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Mrs Diane Todd
Headteacher
Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy
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Dear Mrs Todd

Ofsted visit to Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

Following my visit with Michele Costello, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 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, the deputy headteacher, the special educational needs and/or disabilities coordinator and your deputy designated safeguarding leaders. 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, a different 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:

- You opened the school to all pupils on 8 September 2020. Children in Reception attended part time for the first four days. All children are now expected to attend full time.
- Since the beginning of September, pupils' attendance has been slightly higher than it was at the same time last year.
- You plan to return pupils to the school's usual curriculum before summer 2021.
- Teachers have prioritised pupils' personal, social, emotional and health education. You have asked teachers to focus on the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics. As a result, you have reduced the curriculum in other areas; for example, pupils will not learn to play the recorder in Year 2 and Year 3, and pupils will not learn Spanish in Year 1 and Year 2 this year.
- You have asked teachers to check pupils' phonics knowledge to check for any gaps that may have opened up when the school was not open to all pupils. Once these checks are complete, you plan to provide extra support for any pupils who need it.
- In mathematics, teachers have found that pupils need further practise in arithmetic and their understanding of shape and space.

- Leaders are aware that some content has been missed. You have asked teachers to check what pupils can remember, in subjects such as history and geography, through quizzes.
- Leaders are considering how to deliver curriculum subjects remotely, should this be required. You intend to use online resources to deliver remote education.

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 governing body, the interim chair of the board of trustees, the director of education for the Roman Catholic diocese of Leeds, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Leeds. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Newby

Her Majesty's Inspector