

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



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Janette Cook-Hannah
Headteacher
Holy Family Catholic Primary School
Hall Lane
Cronton
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 5DW

Dear Mrs Cook-Hannah

Ofsted remote visit to Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Following my remote visit with Claire Cropper, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 26 November 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 (coronavirus) lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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 and the subject leader for history. We did not speak to pupils.

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 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:

- Approximately half of the pupils have had to spend some time working at home since the start of term.
- Pupils are studying all subjects in your usual curriculum, but you explained that some subject content has been changed this term. You plan to return to your usual curriculum by summer 2021.
- Teachers have identified the phonics learning which was missed between March and July 2020 in the early years, Year 1 and Year 2. In Years 3 to 6, teachers' checks show that pupils are not as able to answer questions about their reading as they were before March 2020. Extra opportunities are being provided to help pupils catch up in reading.
- Teachers have also checked what pupils have remembered in mathematics. They are focusing on teaching number bonds, multiplication tables and shape, space and measures, as pupils need to regain their knowledge of these areas.
- In subjects other than English and mathematics, you have identified the curriculum areas which were not taught in the period when schools were only open to some children due to the COVID-19 restrictions. You plan to teach this missed learning by the end of the summer term 2021.

- You are providing both online and paper-based remote education to pupils needing to self-isolate. You explained that your remote education offer matches your planned school curriculum, for reading, including phonics, writing and mathematics. You told us that some subjects are more difficult to deliver remotely than others.

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 director of education for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Adam Sproston
Her Majesty's Inspector