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Edward Howard  
Executive Principal  
St Filumena's Catholic Primary School  
Blythe Bridge  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST11 9EA

Dear Mr Howard

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

Following my visit with Eve Morris, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 9 December 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, your chief executive officer and your head of school. 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:**

- At the time of the visit, one 'bubble' was self-isolating. Since September 2020, one other bubble has had to self-isolate. Just over one half of all pupils have had to learn remotely at some point this term.
- Leaders plan to return to the school's usual curriculum by summer 2021, including educational visits and clubs. All usual subjects are being taught but with some adjustments. For example, singing is taking place outside in small groups.
- Teachers have been making checks in lessons to identify gaps in pupils' knowledge this term. In reading, teachers have noticed that younger pupils have gaps in their phonic knowledge. A new programme of phonics is being taught.
- This term, pupils are being given the opportunity to undertake lots of writing. You told us that this is to help improve pupils' stamina and their presentation.
- You told us that in mathematics, pupils are having opportunities to revise and revisit key knowledge.
- In other subjects, adaptations are being made. For example, in physical education, contact sports are temporarily halted but more dance is being taught.
- Staff have been providing digital learning to support pupils who may need to learn remotely. Where possible, this learning is in line with the work pupils would normally access in class. Teachers are delivering live lessons to pupils who are self-isolating, alongside pupils in class.

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 chair of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer of the Painsley multi-academy company, the director of education for the Diocese of Birmingham, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Staffordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Heather Phillips  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**