

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231  
[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)



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Lorna White  
Headteacher  
St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School  
Genoa Road  
Bromley  
London  
SE20 8ES

Dear Mrs White

### **Ofsted remote visit to St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Lucy Bruce, 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 and the assistant headteachers. 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:**

- Since the beginning of term, around one sixth of pupils have had to work from home while isolating for several days.
- Pupils are studying the usual range of subjects. However, leaders have made changes to the time allocated to different subjects this term. Leaders have allocated more time to physical education which is being taught by a specialist coach. Leaders plan to return to the school's usual time allocations by the summer term 2021.
- Since September, teachers have been assessing pupils' new starting points. Reading, including phonics, is a priority across the school. Teachers are using the school's reading programme to identify and address gaps in pupils' phonics knowledge. In Years 3 to 6 teachers are focusing on pupils' understanding and use of vocabulary in their written work.
- In mathematics, leaders have looked at what should have been taught last term. Teachers are covering this content first, before teaching this term's curriculum. Teachers are placing greater emphasis on pupils' knowledge and application of number this term.
- In other subjects, leaders have looked carefully at the knowledge pupils missed during the spring and summer terms. Leaders are working with teachers to identify which aspects of each subject pupils need to know or consolidate, and they have created independent learning projects for pupils to complete.

- So far this half term, one year-group 'bubble' has self-isolated as well as a few individual pupils. On these occasions, remote education typically consisted of online tasks and recorded videos about writing, mathematics, science, and another area of the wider curriculum.
- Leaders are focusing on how to make effective use of video content created by their own teachers. These will be used to support pupils if a further class or year-group bubble must work from home.

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 regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Bromley. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Daniel-John Constable  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**