

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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



22 December 2020

Joanna Seymour  
Executive Principal  
St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy  
St Paul's Wood Hill  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR5 2SR

Dear Mrs Seymour

### **Ofsted visit to St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy**

Following my visit with Mark Smith, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 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 your senior leadership team including the leader with responsibility for safeguarding. 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:**

- A small number of pupils have had to study from home at some point since the start of term.
- Pupils are not yet studying some parts of the music and languages curriculum. You are planning for all pupils to return to the usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have carried out checks to understand the pupils' new starting points in reading. This has led to an increased focus on phonics in Year 1 and Year 2. Leaders have identified reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary as areas that require extra attention. Teachers are providing more support for pupils who have fallen behind, and extra reading books are available online.
- In mathematics, pupils have become less confident with mental calculation strategies and their grasp of place value. To help pupils catch up, teachers have amended planning to provide more support to pupils who need it.
- Teachers are making informal checks on what pupils can remember from the wider curriculum. They are adapting their plans to cover the key facts before moving on to new content in a range of subjects. There is an increased focus on physical education.
- You deliver remote education through online and paper-based resources. A new remote learning platform is being introduced. If a year group of pupils needs to isolate, staff ensure that the subjects provided mirror the school's current curriculum. If an individual pupil needs to study from home, remote education is customised to their needs.

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

Yours sincerely

Phil Garnham  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**