



**St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery**  
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*"Learning and Growing with God by our side"*

## **Ofsted Report**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we can now inform you of the results of our recent Ofsted Inspection which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

We are happy to confirm that St Alban & St Stephen is, as we expected and had evaluated ourselves, a GOOD school with outstanding personal development of our pupils.

As you will know, the Ofsted inspection process has changed significantly since we were last inspected, with over 80% of formerly outstanding primary schools downgraded to 'Good' or 'Requires improvement' under the new inspection framework. We were last inspected as separate infant and junior schools. It is a testament to the hard work put in since our amalgamation during the pandemic that, although much of our all-through Nursery to Year 6 curriculum is described as still 'in the early stages of implementation', Ofsted evaluates it **'well-planned'** ensuring that **'many pupils achieve highly'**.

The inspectors provided much more detailed and positive feedback at the end of the inspection than can possibly be included in a brief, two-page report. However, there are many positives in the report that we would like to highlight. Most importantly, the report begins by saying that, **'Pupils are proud of their nurturing school'** and describes our wonderful pupils as **'compassionate'**. It emphasises the way that pupils respect others and follow the golden rules to ensure that school is **'a calm and safe space'**. Pupils get off to **'a flying start'** in the early years and go on to **'love learning'**, being **'enthusiastic to share what they know.'**

The two-day inspection process and preceding interviews were very thorough and included 'deep dives' into reading, maths, science, geography, art and music, as well as observations around all aspects of school life and interviews with staff, governors, external advisers and, of course, pupils.



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Throughout the inspection, we were open and transparent around our strengths and areas for development. Our hardworking and committed governing body, current leadership team and staff have steered the school calmly and confidently through the amalgamation of the two schools, the pandemic and changes of leadership. Ofsted recognised that the last three years have been a time of challenge, and this leads to one of our areas identified for development. However, Ofsted recognised that, with leadership steadied and secured, our school will continue to go **'from strength to strength'**.

In addition to this, the report identifies occasional opportunities for some teachers to make explanations clearer. This is an area which we had already identified as a training focus on our annual school development plan.

We are very proud of all of our achievements at St Alban and St Stephen and believe that our good Ofsted report is a tribute to the warmth, hard work and dedication of our staff; the supportive engagement of parents and guardians in our school community; and the determination and outstanding efforts of our pupils to make progress, both academically and personally.

Thank you for your ongoing support as an integral part of the SSAS community. We are looking forward to building on our successes, continuing to 'learn and grow with God by our side.

Kind regards,

Head of School

Chair of Governors