



21st June 2018
Ref: 015/SD/cw

Mrs Lisa Weeks
Headteacher
St James' Catholic Primary School
Maybury Close
Petts Wood, BR5 1BL

Dear Lisa,

It was a pleasure to read your recent outstanding Denominational report.

As a new Headteacher, you should be proud to lead a school where the "Christian mission is at the heart of everything." Parents are clearly happy with all that St James does for their children and I noted the many wonderful comments about how you, the senior leadership team and the governors lead the school. It was lovely to read of the many ways the pupils share in the responsibility for making decisions. I am sure this success is a direct result of the shared vision held by you, senior leaders and governors. The report makes clear that you have high expectations of staff and pupils and that at St James' academic excellence and spiritual development are equally important.

The fact that teaching and learning in Religious Education is "outstanding" at St James' is a credit to the dedication and commitment of the teachers who have high expectations and plan lessons which challenge and allows all pupils to succeed. I have been told of the amount of effort the Religious Education leader, puts into ensuring that all teachers are fully supported in the skills and Catholic knowledge needed to engage and challenge pupils and it was wonderful to read that the inspectors noted the positive impact of this work.

Prayer and liturgy is at the heart of the Catholic school and it was a joy to read of the many ways this is lived out at St James'. I was delighted to read about how engaged pupils are in liturgies and Masses and that they are actively involved in the planning. I noted the comments regarding how the close relationship between the school and the parish community, particularly the Parish Priest, is helping to nurture the pupils liturgical awareness.

I am sure that you have already begun to address the area for development as outlined in the report.

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all in the school community for making St James' Catholic Primary School such an outstanding example of Catholic Education in our Diocese.

Yours sincerely

Stephen J Bryan MA
Interim Director of Education

Cc: Mrs Mary Hutchinson, Chair of Governors
Bishop Patrick Lynch