



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Friday 18th September 2026

Ofsted Report - July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to write to you prior to the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection report. The report recognises the significant progress that St Joseph's Catholic School has made and affirms what our pupils, staff and families already know: we are a school built on strong relationships, high levels of care and a genuine sense of belonging.

There is much to celebrate. Inspectors found that pupils are "safe and happy" and recognised the school's "calm and purposeful atmosphere." They also noted that many pupils describe St Joseph's as a family, reflecting the warm, welcoming culture that exists throughout our community. The report highlights many strengths, including effective safeguarding, high-quality pastoral care, positive behaviour, meaningful pupil leadership, extensive enrichment opportunities, and strong governance. Ofsted also judged our Personal Development and Wellbeing provision to be a Strong Standard, recognising the breadth of opportunities available to pupils and the positive contribution they make to the local community.

The report also recognises that our recent school improvement work is beginning to have a positive impact. This is reflected in our rising GCSE outcomes, stronger attainment across subjects and improving performance measures over recent years. These improvements are a testament to the dedication of our pupils, staff, and families. At the same time, the report identifies areas where further work is needed. Inspectors noted that some of our curriculum and school improvement initiatives have not yet had sufficient time to be fully embedded across every area of the school. We agree with this assessment. While we are proud of the progress we have made, we remain ambitious and determined to secure even better outcomes for every pupil.

Our central improvement priority this year is Academic Rigour. We are focused on ensuring that every classroom and every learning experience enables pupils to achieve their very best. This includes continuing to strengthen the quality and consistency of teaching, increasing challenge and ambition for all pupils, improving feedback and assessment, developing strong study habits, enhancing adaptive teaching, and ensuring literacy and numeracy are at the heart of learning across the curriculum. The Ofsted report confirms that our foundations are strong, our direction is clear and our future is bright.

Finally, I would like to thank our pupils for their enthusiasm, our staff for their unwavering dedication, our governors for their support and challenge, and you, our parents and carers, for the trust and encouragement you provide every day. Together, we have made significant progress, and together we will continue our pursuit of excellence for every child entrusted to our care.

With every blessing,

Matthew Higgins
Headmaster

