



9 May 2019

Dear Parents and carers,

Further to my letter of 11 April regarding the recent Ofsted inspection, the inspection report is now available to view on the school website.

Whilst the report captures some of what we know are the school's strengths, not least of all 'the high levels of care' that mean 'pupils in the school are well looked after', the staff and Governing Body are clearly disappointed with the final judgement and overall outcome of the inspection, which judges the school to be inadequate. We feel that the report, following a two-day snapshot inspection, does not accurately reflect our school community or indeed the very positive views held and expressed by so many parents via Ofsted's 'Parent View'. However, we must now accept the findings in the report, and we will use them to bring about the rapid improvement that is required.

We wish to reassure parents that, along with our strategic partners at the Diocese of Salford and Bury Local Authority, we have responded promptly in commissioning support that will enable us to bring about improvements in the areas identified within the report. Steps taken already include;

- i. The strengthening of senior leadership by the addition of an experienced interim headteacher who will support the school as it drives and implements necessary change;
- ii. Recruitment of a new headteacher
- iii. Creating a Rapid Action Plan that will be put in place for the rest of the current school year. This plan, updated as necessary, will then form the basis for a longer term improvement plan to be instigated from the start of the new school year in September 2019;
- iv. Support from a highly regarded teaching school;

If, when you have read this letter or the report, you have any concerns as to how this might affect your child(ren) then please contact the school.

At the last inspection in 2011 St Gabriel's was judged to be an outstanding school and we firmly believe that status is achievable again. The staff and governors are proud of the children and are proud that the high standards of care and support for our 'charming' pupils is recognised, but we will need your continued support and trust as we start the next stages of our journey. The Governing Body and staff at the school are fully committed to implementing the changes necessary to attain the improvements required. Working together we are confident that we will achieve that goal.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Coen
Chair Governing Body

