



St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School

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"Let Your Light Shine"



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share with you the report following the recent Ofsted inspection of St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School, which took place on 9 and 10 September 2026. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

The inspection came earlier in the academic year than we had anticipated, taking place a week after the children had returned to school following the summer break. Nevertheless, we were proud to welcome the inspection team and to show them our school, our children and the community that makes St Matthew's Bloxam such a special place.

Understanding the new Ofsted framework

It is important to explain that Ofsted inspections now look very different from those many parents will remember.

There is no longer a single overall judgement such as Outstanding, Good or Requires Improvement. Instead, Ofsted evaluates different aspects of a school's work separately, using a five-point scale ranging from Exceptional through to Urgent improvement. Safeguarding is considered separately as either Met or Not met.

The new framework also applies what is often described as a "secure fit" approach. In simple terms, a school needs to demonstrate that **all** the criteria for a particular standard are securely met, rather than strengths in one aspect compensating for an area that has not yet reached that standard.

Perhaps a useful way of thinking about our report is like a car going through its MOT. The inspection looks carefully at the different components of the school. Some are securely where they need to be, while others have effectively been given advisory notes telling us what needs further attention. The important thing is that we understand those areas and act upon them.

Ofsted's own explanation of "Needs attention" is important in this context: it means that the expected standards are not currently met but leaders are likely able to make the necessary improvements.

There is much in this report of which we are extremely proud

Most importantly, our safeguarding standards were met. Inspectors found that leaders and governors fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities and that we have established an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, helping our pupils to be and feel safe.

Attendance and behaviour were judged to meet the Expected standard. Inspectors recognised that attendance is now in line with national averages and particularly highlighted the improvement in attendance for pupils with SEND, which is higher than that seen nationally. They also found that pupils behave well, move around school calmly, understand our rules and are kind and polite.

Personal development and wellbeing also met the Expected standard. The report particularly highlights our pastoral support as a strength, recognising that staff know our children well and respond effectively when difficulties arise. Inspectors found that this helps children to feel safe, ready to learn and part of a caring community.

We are especially proud of Ofsted's description of what it is like to be a child at our school:

"St. Matthew's Bloxam is a school that cares."

That statement means a great deal to us.

The report describes the warmth, kindness and compassion that permeate school life. Inspectors saw pupils living out our SHINE values through kindness, respect and forgiveness. They found that pupils feel valued, know their trusted adults, behave well and are confident that adults will help them when they have a worry. The inspection also recognised many other strengths:

- **children in Early Years get off to a positive start, with warm relationships between children and staff;**
- **our curriculum is broad and typically well designed;**
- **leaders have correctly identified the areas of teaching that need to improve and have already begun making changes;**
- **there is clear ambition for pupils with SEND and a strong inclusive ethos;**
- **parents of children attending The Lighthouse are very positive about the care their children receive;**
- **staff feel valued, cared for and supported, and inspectors described them as a "happy, cohesive and collaborative team"; and**
- **governors were recognised as being committed to the school and ambitious for its pupils.**

Our next steps

We also recognise and accept that the report identifies important areas requiring further attention. These principally concern achievement, consistency in teaching and assessment, support for pupils with SEND, the transition from Reception to Year 1, and ensuring that leaders and governors evaluate the impact of improvement work precisely enough. None of these priorities comes as a surprise to us. Ofsted explicitly recognised that leaders have identified the right priorities for improvement, including raising attainment in reading, writing and mathematics, and that work to address them has already begun. Our task now is to make sure that this work has a sufficiently rapid and sustained impact for every child. We will continue to review pupils' learning carefully, strengthen consistency across classrooms, develop assessment practice and ensure that support for pupils with SEND is effective and responsive. We will also focus on the transition from Reception to Year 1 and on evaluating the impact of improvement work with greater precision.

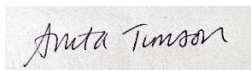
Looking forward

An Ofsted inspection is an important external view of a school at a particular moment in time. This inspection took place exceptionally early in our school year, when children and staff had only just returned and new routines, classes and relationships were becoming established. We will use the report constructively. We will celebrate what it says about the care, safety, behaviour, values, relationships and sense of belonging within our school, while working determinedly on the areas that inspectors have identified for improvement.

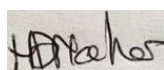
Above all, the report describes a school where children are cared for, feel safe and belong, and a staff team united in wanting the very best for them. We are immensely proud of our children and staff, and we would like to thank our families for your continued trust, encouragement and support.

Our commitment remains exactly the same: to ensure that every child at St Matthew's Bloxam is safe, included, valued and supported to achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely,



Anita Timson
Headteacher



Hazel Maher
Chair of Governors