



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust  
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Dear Families,

Following our letter to you last month about our drive to provide an ever more positive learning environment for our children, we are happy to offer more detailed information about our aims and objectives in this area. As a staff we regularly monitor and review all aspects of school life against the Ofsted Framework, in order that we may continue to make a high quality provision.

As we wrote to inform you last month, we have recently, been considering the quality and standards of Behaviour and Safety. It is widely recognised that positive behaviour has a positive impact on learning, it allows confidence to grow and causes all children to feel safe and secure in the school environment. The Governors regularly review the behaviour policy and all the children are aware of the high expectations.

Having considered day to day behaviour against the Ofsted criteria, we believe that behaviour would currently be recognised as being 'Good' across the school. However, we are committed to continue raising standards so that we may obtain an 'Outstanding' grade for our children and our school.

The areas which Ofsted will examine in order to form a judgment are:-  
*(Taken from the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook – Jan'15)*

- **The children's attitudes to Learning and the extent to which they help or hinder their progress in lessons:-**
  - Therefore, we continue to develop our teaching to encourage a 'thirst' for knowledge and a love of learning in all pupils.
  - We are reminding all the children of the 'Give me Five' rule and that it is an expectation that all instructions from adults are followed in order that teaching and learning is not hindered by the non-response of individuals.
- **The children's attitudes to school, their conduct during lessons and during playtimes. Their attitudes to other children and to teachers and other staff:-**

- Therefore, we are reminding the children of the St Johns 'mission statements', which form the school rules, as well as the class rules which, although based on the 'mission statements' are devised by the children themselves so that they may have 'ownership' of them.
- We continue to remind the children that everyone's behaviour should be rooted in the Gospel values – that we care for, respect and are considerate of, each other at all times.
- **The school's response to pupil's behaviour over time:-**
  - Therefore, we shall continue to write to parents when an incident occurs, as well as keep a record of poor choice behaviours by individuals and the sanctions that are put in place to address those actions.
  - We will continue to ask for the support of parent's in reinforcing the message that negative behaviours of any description will not be tolerated.
  - We will continue to provide pastoral care for those children whose behaviour has been adversely affected by outside influences.
  - We will continue to provide 'restorative' support to children who need help to get their friendships back on the right track.
- **The children's contribution to, and their response to, the culture of the school and how they conduct themselves, including: their respect, courtesy and good manners towards each other and adults....and their understanding of how such behaviour contributes to school life ... and work:-**
  - We will continue to encourage full and correct uniform, as well as punctuality and attendance.
  - We continue to model expected behaviour and remind the children that it is an expectation that positive behaviour and good manners are evident in all areas of the school and at all times of the day – positive behaviours will be rewarded with tokens and 'special mentions'.
  - We are drawing attention to the fact that excellent conduct and behaviour makes a strong contribution to creating a positive climate for learning.
  - We will encourage the children to take pride in their school, reminding them that we are all part of the St Johns family and that everyone has a responsibility for their own and each-others successes.
  - We will encourage the children to respect their learning environment and take care of school equipment and resources, as well as outside areas by not dropping litter etc.
- **Rates of 'bullying and the effectiveness of the school's actions to prevent and tackle bullying and harassment (including cyber-bullying, prejudice based bullying, special educational need, gender, religion and belief and disability bullying):-**
  - We will further develop an environment of 'openness' by frequent discussions in class and in assemblies about different forms of bullying, and that it will not be tolerated.
  - We will further develop the children's skills of 'empathy' and 'emotional literacy' through classwork and assemblies – reminding them that our practice of the Gospel values should always influence our behaviour.

- We will continue to develop our offer of 'restorative' and 'pastoral' care for all our children.
- We will work with parents of those children who are both victims and perpetrators in order to bring about successful resolutions – the support of parents is key.
- **The effectiveness of the school's actions to prevent and tackle discriminatory and derogatory language:-**
  - Bad language, and use of language to insult another person will not be tolerated – its use is damaging to the person it is aimed at and offensive to all. We will continue to embed a culture in which all members of the community use only acceptable expressive language, as opposed to expletives.
  - The school will continue to report to parents when bad language is used and ask for their support in ending its use.
- **Pupils Attendance Rates and Absenteeism:-**
  - We will continue to embed an ethos of excellent attendance. Currently the attendance rate for this academic year falls below the Government set target for our school (96.7%).
  - Excellent attendance will continue to be celebrated.
  - Absence will only be authorised when it is for a matter of exceptional need – holidays can not be authorised.
  - Persistent and / or repeated absence due to sickness will require substantiation from a doctor in order for it to be authorised.
- **Pupils Punctuality at the start of the school day:-**
  - We thank the vast majority of families whose children arrive in good time to begin the school day – we will continue to provide reminders to those families whose children are frequently late that it is a legal obligation to enable children to begin the school day on time.

We hope very much that all our families will agree with us in that the more positive behaviour is, and attitudes are, the happier and safer all our children will feel. This in turn will lead to fewer barriers to learning and higher success rates. The children's pride in their school will increase and a general atmosphere of positivity will become infectious.

As always, we remain committed to working with you for the benefit of all our children and our whole school community, we are grateful for your on-going support and together we will move our school ever onwards and upwards!

Yours sincerely,

A Hanou (Ms)  
Headteacher – On behalf of the Staff and Governing Body.