



18th January 2011

St Hilary's School Inspection

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to be able to send you a copy of our latest full inspection report. As you will be aware, towards the end of last term, we had our visit from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. We received five days' notice before four visitors arrived to inspect the whole school and the Early Years. My thanks go to all the parents and pupils who responded to the questionnaires. (ISI is aware that there were difficulties for some pupils to access the online questionnaires).

We are truly delighted that the Inspection team fully understood the special qualities and ethos of St Hilary's and what we are striving to achieve. I especially would like to draw your attention to the key judgements which you will find elaborated upon in the report:

The quality of the pupils' learning and achievement is excellent.

Pupils are well educated: the school fulfills its aim to support and nurture high expectations.

Pupils of all abilities achieve highly in all aspects of their learning.

They are articulate, show independence of thought and have well-developed literacy skills and show high levels of creativity.

Results in national test at the age of 11 are excellent.

Provision for pupils with particular learning difficulties and / or disabilities and for able, gifted and talented pupils is excellent.

Effective teaching, the pupils' well-developed skills and knowledge, and their thorough understanding are significant contributory factors in the high levels of attainment and progress.

The quality of pupils' personal development is outstanding.

Pupils show excellent spiritual awareness and outstanding moral awareness and an excellent sense of social awareness.

There are excellent arrangements for pastoral care. Behaviour is excellent.

Pupils show a highly developed appreciation of their own and other cultures and benefit greatly from their participation in plays, ballets and concerts.

Children's achievements in the Early Years are outstanding.

Children are happy, feel safe and approach all activities enthusiastically and confidently, responding well to high expectations of staff. Relationships between staff and children are a strength of the Early Years setting.

There is strong governance and highly effective leadership and management. The school has an excellent relationship with parents.

Recruitment procedures are rigorous; safeguarding and anti-bullying policies are comprehensive and detailed. The school meets all the regulatory requirements of the Independent School Standards Regulations 2010.

We have much to share and celebrate and I am delighted that the pupils and my committed, dedicated team of staff as well as our Governors are recognised in this report. It is especially gratifying that we were complimented on the way we responded to our last inspection as we have rigorously continued to develop and enrich the life of the school in all areas and encourage the young to be independent. The challenge for any school which receives an excellent report is to maintain the high standards and, be assured, that is what we intend to do. I do hope you enjoy reading this excellent report.

Best wishes,
Mrs Susan Bailes
Headmistress