



**The Federation of  
St. Alphege Church of England Infant and  
Nursery School and  
St. Alphege Church of England Junior  
School**



Christian School Values: Love, Honesty, Cooperation, Responsibility, Forgiveness and Valuing Difference.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing today to update you on the outcome of our latest Ofsted inspection of St Alphege Junior School which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Our school received a Good rating in several categories, including for behaviour, attitudes and personal development. We were judged to be requiring improvement in the quality of education and leadership and management of the school. This has disappointingly led to an overall rating of Requires Improvement, but with a clear recognition by Ofsted that we have already begun to make those improvements.

We are of course taking Ofsted's feedback seriously, and we are pleased that the report recognises the many actions we have already taken to identify and implement improvements to address the areas raised. There is more to do, however, and we are working rapidly to ensure that our school meets all our high expectations and standards. We hope to be able to work with our whole school community, including you, as we support our school's positive journey from this point on.

The report can be found at [St Alphege Junior School Report 2023 by StAlphegeCofE - Issuu](#), and I would encourage you to take the time to read through it. However, in the meantime I wanted to share in more detail the actions we are taking, and the main areas covered within the report.

Whilst Ofsted judged the school to be requiring improvement in leadership and management, it noted the effective and rapid work of our Interim Headteacher, Ms Worswick to stabilise and improve the school following a period of change. It also noted the commitment of governors to the school. Building on the improvements that have already been achieved by the school's senior leaders, we are of course delighted to be welcoming our new Executive Headteacher, Mr Sam Smith from 17<sup>th</sup> April. He shares our collective high ambitions for the school, and I know is looking forward to working with pupils, staff, parents and our whole school community to drive St Alphege Junior School forward. He is already closely involved in planning for the future with governors and Ms Worswick.

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Interim Executive  
Head Teacher:  
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Chair of Governors:  
Mrs. P. Price

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Ofsted confirmed that our safeguarding arrangements are effective, and that pupils feel safe at school and “know that there is always an adult they can go to” if they need help. The inspectors noted that safeguarding records for a period were not as clear or precise as they should be, but that leaders have improved systems and procedures to help keep pupils safe. Since the inspection, we have commissioned an external review of the improvements to ensure that they are highly effective, and we have implemented further robust safeguarding and recording processes, as well as establishing strong oversight and accountability measures for leaders and governors.

For the quality of education delivered, Ofsted noted that our curriculum matches the ambition of the national curriculum, and that teachers help pupils to systematically improve their reading. Pupils read daily, and our clear structured teaching programme helps all pupils. As a result, children leave our school being able to read accurately and fluently, helping them with their next steps.

To further improve our provision, Ofsted has recommended that we enhance our monitoring processes for tracking pupil progress, and that we further expand and deepen teachers’ subject knowledge. This will enable us to have a coherently planned and effectively implemented curriculum, and a great amount of work has gone into delivering this already since the inspection. We are already working closely with advisers from Solihull MBC to enhance our subject leaders’ skills and expertise, and with the Little Sutton Learning Hub to learn from outstanding practice in early years phonics and early reading.

We are clear on the areas we need to further improve and are working tirelessly to implement rapid and effective changes to address these. However, several positive elements of our school were praised by the inspectors, recognising that:

- Leaders ensure pupils know how to keep themselves safe both at school, within the locality, and online.
- Pupils enjoy attending school and form good relationships with each other and with the “caring staff”. As a result, our pupils have “positive attitudes towards their learning” and enjoy much of their education, and the wide range of clubs and opportunities that leaders provide.

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- Pupils are polite and behave well, both inside and outside the classroom. This includes our pupils playing nicely together during breakdowns and enjoying our “well-equipped playground and school grounds”.
- Classrooms are inclusive, with all pupils accessing the same curriculum. Leaders have ensured that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are accurately identified, with those students and vulnerable students benefiting from well-trained staff who address needs carefully.
- Our offer to broaden pupils’ personal development is a strength of the school, with pupils learning the important values of tolerance, respect and diversity.
- Parents/carers appreciate the range of clubs available for students, with leaders ensuring all pupils have fair and equal access to after-school provision, be it football, dance or languages.

We are confident that, based on the positive impact of the changes already implemented and embedded since the January inspection, and with the arrival of our new Executive Headteacher who can build on the strong foundations laid by Ms Worswick and senior leaders, we can achieve the rapid and effective progress improvements for our school.

Some Governors will be at the Parents’ Consultation Evenings on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March if you wish to discuss any of this report with them. **Mr Smith will be holding “Meet the Headteacher” evenings on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the Junior School.** At these he will be happy to discuss his plans for the school.

We hope to be able to continue working closely with all of you as we implement these improvements, and your ongoing support, understanding and collaboration is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Price

Chair of Governors  
Federation of St Alphege CE Schools

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