



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●●

Strive Thrive Achieve

Headteacher: Mr Antony Curry

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Please take some time to read our Ofsted report, which is now published on the website. We are very happy with the conclusions that the inspector has reached about St Anthony's.

They match our own evaluation of the school as a very successful provision for pupils with a range of special needs.

The first sentence is the most important. It validates all that we do, every day to make a difference to the lives of the young people we work with.

Describing what it is like to attend this school, the inspector's conclusions are universally positive, reflecting the layers of provision that we put in place to achieve outstanding results for our pupils. Class room practice, careers, pastoral support and enrichment are all acknowledged as being highly effective.

We can be confident in our curriculum. It is well designed to meet needs and delivered effectively. The work we have done to provide experiential learning opportunities that help to fix knowledge in long term memory, is acknowledged.

Reading, as we expected, is recognised as a strength.

Personal development is rightly seen as a priority and a strength.

The areas for improvement are important. They are not a surprise and we already had actions in place to address them before the inspection. The work we are doing to extend mastery opportunities will deepen knowledge and understanding.

The work we have done on absence is acknowledged but needs to be further embedded. We will be sharing updates with you shortly.

This type of inspection does not officially have a grade. It concludes that we have **maintained** our standard from the last inspection, which was good.

These are some of the moments that did not make it to the report:

- As all visitors to St Anthony's do, the inspectors commented on the welcome they received and the incredibly strong relationships staff have with pupils – 'This shines through.'



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- One member of staff said to the lead inspector, 'This is not just a school, it's a community.'
- The lead inspector was smitten with the Axolotls in Pegwell.
- One pupil told the inspector that he has never liked coming to school but likes StA's
- The lead inspector had planned 15 minutes talking to the pupil panel. It lasted half an hour and he said he would have liked to have gone on longer.
- Parents that responded were very positive: 'My child never wanted to come to school; now he comes every day.' 'I can't thank the staff enough, they all work so hard and are dealing with challenging behaviour every day.'
- After seeing the work that Steve had been doing with pupils the inspector commented, 'Most schools would give their right arm to have a site manager like yours.'
- After leaving forest school, the inspector commented that in another life she would love to be a forest school teacher and could have stayed there all afternoon.

These excellent judgements about the school have come about as a result of the tremendous hard work and dedication put in by all staff. They are also a result of the support you give us. None of the success we have with the young people at St Anthony's would be possible without it.

You have my thanks for that as we continue to Strive Thrive and Achieve together towards a successful future.

Mr Antony Curry
Head Teacher