



Trinity School

CofE VA Primary & Nursery School

16th May 2022

Ofsted Inspection Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last two years, the school has worked extremely hard to manage the turbulence caused by the pandemic and keep our pupils and families safe. As many of you will be aware, these disruptions have had a huge impact on the staffing and management of the school.

Starting back in September 2021, we were all hoping that the many of these issues would be eased, allowing the school to continue to focus on delivering the high-quality education that we all so passionately strive to achieve for Trinity. However, these last two terms have seen the highest absence rates of pupils and staff since COVID began. In the Spring term of 2022, we were averaging 20-30% of the school staff absent on a daily basis, with these absences being unable to be covered due to shortages in supply staff.

By February half term, I had been signed off with Long Covid along with Mr Hadden, and Mrs Laws had left as part of her planned move overseas. This disruption left the school without the senior leadership team and although the staff continued to work tirelessly to provide the daily quality of teaching that we expect at Trinity, without the strong and consistent leadership the school has been used to, the governors recognised that additional support was needed to maintain the stability of leadership and day-to-day operations. The United Schools Federation offered their immediate support by providing leadership cover and expertise. This partnership has been invaluable during this difficult time and as the school moves forward, we will continue to work with their team to develop strong links for our staff and leaders.

Many of you will be aware of some, or all of these challenges and changes we have encountered, I wanted to give you a clear picture and context of the number of issues the school has been trying to manage during this time. In the midst of this disruption, the school then received a call from the Ofsted inspection team! Whilst we were able to defer the initial visit, the inspectors still returned during my absence and with many of the school staff still absent too.

The inspection took place over two days and there were many positive areas of our school that were praised by Ofsted, as well as identifying areas for improvement. I would like to thank the staff and leaders for their incredible work during this time, as they all pulled together in my absence. The positive comments in the parent feedback forms were also wonderful to read. Our whole school community recognises how hard we work to give our pupils the best education possible, so thank you for your support.

Whilst we are frustrated by the overall judgement of 'Requires Improvement', we recognise that this was only a snap-shot in time, when the school was without its leadership team. However, we take their recommendations for improvement extremely seriously and we have already begun to act

"Learning through faith, we dream, believe and achieve!"

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swiftly to make positive changes, alongside support from Devon County, the United Schools Federation and Exeter Diocese education team.

Over the coming weeks and months, I will be sharing with you updates on the changes we are making and there will opportunities for you all to meet with me and the new team to ask any questions or make any suggestions about these improvements. I will continue to work closely with the Executive Headteacher from the United Schools Federation, to ensure we rapidly implement these positive changes and our team will be able to draw from their wider group of schools and leaders, to further support us with this.

In the short term, one of our priorities is staffing. We are currently in the process of recruiting new teachers, leaders and a deputy headteacher so that the school has the capacity to move forward as we continue to grow.

I am excited and optimistic about the next steps for Trinity and I have been encouraged by the support and kindness that you have all given to the school during this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

Owen Wilder
Headteacher

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