



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Let your Light Shine"

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Mr D Hearnden, Interim Principal



Tuesday 14th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the publication of the recent Ofsted report to acknowledge the concerns that many of you may understandably have, particularly regarding the provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The findings of the report are disappointing and may cause anxiety for families. I want to assure you that we have acted swiftly and decisively to address the issues identified and that improving the experience and provision for our SEND students is a priority

In addition to the Executive Leadership team in place, we have secured the support of a highly experienced senior leader and SENDCo, who is working with us on a part-time basis. Their expertise is already helping us to review and strengthen our SEND provision, ensuring that the right systems, processes and support are in place to meet the needs of every child. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Grant, currently Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for our Sixth Form will lead on SEND and Inclusion from September. This additional capacity is proving invaluable as we drive forward improvements at pace.

There have already been a number of positive developments across the school. Expectations are rising, and there is a renewed focus on creating a calm, purposeful and inclusive environment where every student can flourish. Within SEND, we are reviewing provision carefully to ensure that students' needs are identified promptly, support is appropriately targeted, and progress is monitored rigorously. We continue to work closely with external agencies to ensure that specialist expertise informs the support we provide.

Whilst we fully acknowledge that there is still work to do, I am encouraged by the progress that has already been made in a relatively short period of time. I am confident that, with the strengthened leadership team, the expertise now supporting our SEND provision, and the commitment of our staff, we will continue to make rapid and sustained improvements.

Our commitment to every child is unwavering. We want every student to feel safe, supported, valued and able to achieve their full potential. We also know that this can only be achieved by working in genuine partnership with parents and carers.

Thank you for your continued support and trust during this important period of change. I am confident that the actions we are taking now will lead to lasting improvements for all of our students, and especially those with SEND.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Hearnden
Interim Principal