

St Aloysius Self Evaluation - September 2017

Quality of Teaching Analysis

- Teaching has improved rapidly, it is now outstanding in both schools. It is of a consistently high quality in all year groups and across all subjects.
- Over a number of years we have created a culture in which staff are highly motivated, reflective and are provided with a range of opportunities to improve.
- Teachers make very effective use of the school's accurate information about what pupils are able to do to plan imaginative learning activities that challenge and interest. For example, pupils of all abilities in Year 6 mathematics, work together to regularly apply their reasoning skills extremely well.
- Teaching assistants across all classes are highly skilled in their craft. They are well prepared for each lesson because they communicate well with the class teacher about what pupils will be learning. They apply techniques developed in appropriate training to very good effect when supporting pupils.
- Teachers use their excellent subject knowledge and well-developed questioning skills to provide pupils with opportunities to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the topics that they are studying. Staff regularly use astute questioning.
- The skills of English, Reading and Writing, are taught well. Teachers provide many opportunities for pupils to master their techniques when working individually or in small groups.
- Pupils show great resilience when working collaboratively on activities that stretch them. In a recent pupil survey a Year 4 pupil wrote that, 'I like a challenge.'
- Phonics is taught exceptionally well. By using the techniques they have learned in earlier years, older pupils make very good independent use of their understanding of phonics and letter combinations to spell increasingly well.
- Teachers have a very good knowledge of the content and skills that pupils need to understand and develop in subjects other than English and mathematics. For example, due to the high-quality teaching they received, pupils created a recent, unique and skilled art exhibition to celebrate the 'Year of Mercy.'
- Pupils' Standard English communication skills are regularly taught well. Teachers provide pupils with many opportunities to develop their written and verbal communication. As a consequence, pupils are now articulating more fluently. All classes from Nursery to Year 6 have planned opportunities to perform orally in front of an audience.
- The curriculum is impressive. It supports both the academic and wider development of the pupils. There is an outstanding range of extra-curricular activities, covering sports, the arts, music and pupils' spiritual development. These include football, rugby, dancing, skipping, basketball, singing and residential visits. The knitting together of personal and academic development through the planned curriculum is very strong in both schools.
- As well as this, we are continuing to develop the use of specialist teachers across the curriculum. A successful initiative has been the rapid development of Modern Foreign Languages. Standards in French are excellent and progress through the school is very high.

- Regularly, teaching is observed by the Head teacher alongside members of the leadership team in all year groups from Y6 to Nursery. In all observed lessons the quality of teaching is first rate (at least good in all, outstanding in the vast majority of classes).
- There is particularly strong teacher modelling, high level questioning and excellent relationships between all. Pupils make rapid progress in lessons because they become absorbed in a wide range of exciting activities.
- Alongside this, frequent work scrutiny with the leadership team show that subjects are taught in a consistent way.
- The way in which teachers and other adults work together is impressive. In a recent Reception class lesson, the lesson was a hive of activity as pupils set about their tasks with confidence and enjoyment. All adults supported pupils effectively as they worked in pairs, or on their own. There was a real sense of urgency to complete the task. The inspiring facilities (inside and outside) were very well used.

Exceptional progress has been made in both schools since their last inspections. Overall the quality of teaching is now outstanding. This enables pupils to prepare well for the move to their next phase of education.

