



Archdiocese of Birmingham
St. Mary's Catholic Academy
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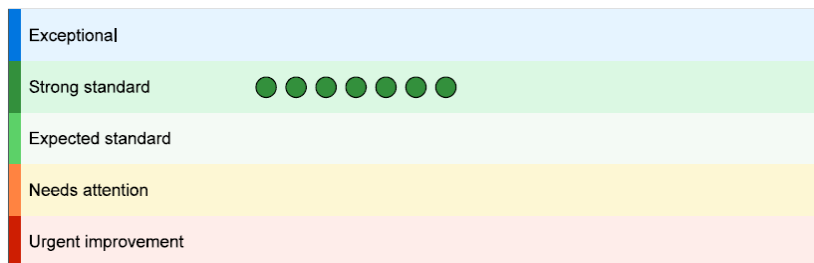
Dear Parent/Carer,

Publication of Ofsted Report Card

I am delighted to share the attached Ofsted Report Card following the inspection of St. Mary's Catholic Academy in February.

This report represents a highly commendable endorsement of our school and for the entire St. Mary's Catholic Academy community to be immensely proud of. It confirms that the school has been judged to meet the Strong Standard in all areas of Ofsted's new inspection framework, which is an exceptionally rare and significant outcome under this revised system.

Inspection report: 24 February 2026



I would like to say a huge well done to our pupils. During the inspection, they behaved brilliantly and spoke confidently and honestly about their school. They showed how proud they are to belong to St Mary's Catholic Academy and represented our school in a wonderful way. We are very proud of them.

As you may be aware, Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework in September, with inspections under this model commencing nationally in December. St. Mary's Catholic Academy was part of the first cohort of schools to be inspected under this new and far more demanding approach.

Under the revised framework, the long-standing overall grades of 'Good' and 'Outstanding' have been replaced by report cards, which assess schools against clearly defined standards across a range of inspection areas. These judgements place a strong emphasis on consistency, impact and lived experience, rather than headline labels.



Within this framework:

- The Expected Standard represents secure, consistently effective practice that meets national expectations.
- The Strong Standard sets an exceptionally high bar. It is awarded only where *all* criteria within an area are fully and securely met, using a strict *secure-fit* model. This means there is no margin for partial compliance; every standard must be met in full.

It is therefore an achievement of national significance that St. Mary's Catholic Academy has been judged STRONG in every inspection area. This confirms the school's provision as consistently strong, deeply embedded and highly effective across all elements of school life.

While we remain committed to reflection and continuous improvement, this outcome is a clear endorsement of our shared commitment to excellence.

You may find the following short video helpful, as it explains the new report card system and inspection approach in more detail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

I would strongly encourage you to read the inspection commentary in full. It captures the ethos and lived experience of our school exceptionally well, particularly in its description of what it is like to be a pupil at St. Mary's Catholic Academy. Inspectors commented, for example:

'There is a deep sense of belonging at St. Mary's Catholic Academy Pupils are greeted with warmth and care, setting them up for a positive start to the day.'

'Pupils are very proud of their school... They are respectful, well-mannered and responsible. There is a real sense of togetherness throughout the school community.'

'There is a highly inclusive ethos at the school. Staff work thoughtfully together to support and care for pupils who may have barriers to their learning or wellbeing.'

'Pupils feel welcome and safe in school, and this encourages regular attendance'

'Expectations for behaviour are consistently high from early years to Year 6. Pupils live up to these expectations.'

'Pupils show a positive attitude to learning. They engage in lessons enthusiastically, demonstrate self-discipline and collaborate consistently well with their peers.'

My sincere thanks to parents and carers for the feedback you provided during the inspection. Your partnership with the school is greatly valued and plays an important role in shaping our ongoing work.

We are blessed with a skilled, dedicated and deeply committed staff body, supported by knowledgeable and effective governors and directors, whose vocation and professionalism underpin everything recognised within this report.



Although the inspection framework does not permit inspectors to comment directly on the Catholic life of the school, the feedback we have received affirms that our mission — *Many hearts, one Accord: In God's love we grow and learn together to build the kingdom of God* is clearly lived out each day within our community.

This report represents a remarkable collective achievement for pupils, staff, governors, directors, parents and carers alike. I hope you enjoy reading it and sharing in the pride of what we have achieved together.

With best wishes,

Mrs S. Rathbone

Principal

