

## Report for St Mary's Cogges APCM – February 2018

### **The Blake CE Primary School**

The Blake School serves more than 400 children from the town, with the majority of children living within 1 ½ miles of the school. There are in excess of eighty members of the staff team.

The past couple of years has been a time of particular challenge in education. There have been huge changes to the national curriculum and to methods of assessment, which have both increased the degree of academic challenge and required the development of new assessment methods.

Staff and governors remain committed to ensuring that children who attend The Blake School experience a broad, inspiring and rich curriculum with opportunities to excel in sport, music, art and drama as well as academically. The school year is punctuated by performances, trips, seasonal celebrations and sporting events.

A rich Christian ethos lies at the heart of the school with different monthly values forming the focus for daily collective worship. The focus on Christian values allows for the nurturing of the whole child – spiritually, emotionally, mentally as well as academically so that children leaving the school are confident and well prepared to face the challenges that they will face as they move to secondary provision and beyond.

Each child at the school is a valued member of the community, their diversity adds to the richness that makes the school a very special community. There is an increasing level of need amongst the children at the school with a significant number experiencing personal challenges, or finding themselves in complex situations.

The school has been particularly blessed to be able to employ Judith Ledden as a 'Home School Key Worker', whose role is funded by the Blake Educational Trust and St Mary's Cogges. Her role is already having a positive impact as she works with children and families, provides a valuable link both between home and school and also enables families to access additional support services.

In December the school welcomed Ofsted for a rigorous two-day inspection. The report recognised the many strengths of the school, but also provides clear indicators as to steps for further development.

Staff and governors are deeply grateful to the individuals at St Mary's who pray so faithfully for the school, its staff and children. Moving forward the challenge for staff is to continue to balance providing children with an exciting, broad and stimulating curriculum with ensuring children are enabled to perform well against government testing requirements, whilst still meeting the varied needs of each and every child.