

Report for St Mary's Cogges APCM – March 2019

The Blake CE Primary School

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

Staff and governors are 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, details of which can be found on the school website (www.blake.oxon.sch.uk/website)

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 of 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, both in relation to special educational need as well as a significant number experiencing personal challenges or finding themselves in complex situations. The level of need places increased demands on staff, who continue to work with extraordinary commitment and compassion.

This year, whilst celebrating the many positive comments in the December 2017 Ofsted report, staff and governors have worked with the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust to address the areas for improvement raised. The school awaits a monitoring visit by Ofsted to judge the efficacy of the actions that have been taken. In common with other schools across the country The Blake has, this past year in particular, begun to be more significantly impacted by the lack of funding for education.

The school continues to be blessed by the employment of Judith Ledden as a 'Home School Key Worker', whose role is funded jointly by the Blake Educational Trust and St Mary's Cogges. Her role working with individual children and their families has a significant positive impact on a large number of families as well as providing a valuable link between home and school and enabling families to access additional support services.

Moving forward the challenge is to continue to meet the varied and complex level of children's need whilst balancing the provision of a broad and stimulating curriculum with ensuring children are enabled to perform well against government testing requirements. In the light of these challenges protecting and promoting staff wellbeing also remain key priorities.

Staff and governors are deeply grateful to the PCC for their ongoing financial support for the role of the Home School Key Worker and to the individuals at St Mary's who pray so faithfully for the school, its children, staff and governors.