

Partners in Communication - Silver Award

Module 3 - Pupils

St Monica's prides itself in its outstanding and effective communication with pupils which has improved and developed significantly over the past 2/3 years.

'Relationships between teachers and students are excellent and contribute to the outstanding progress that students make' (Ofsted 2009)
Pastoral care at the school is outstanding, the role of the form teacher is crucial and all form teachers are empowered and supported in communicating with staff, pupils and parents in order to support and ensure safety and happiness of all pupils in accordance with the school mission statement.

Members of the school have a clear vision about the mission of the school which is clearly communicated throughout the school through the ethos shared by all and communicated effectively to parents and new intake pupils in a variety of ways including access to the school website, guidance issued to parents and pupils as well as information evenings and open mornings. The school journal is a key document in communicating varied information to parents and pupils on a regular basis.

Pastoral care is outstanding. 'The school is highly inclusive and a range of professionals, including mentors and outside agencies, provide students with outstanding care, guidance and support.' This helps students feel very safe and secure in school and ensures that pupils and families are able to access additional services if appropriate. Pupils are made aware of roles of other agencies within lessons, in particular within citizenship and information regarding support available within and outside of school is displayed in appropriate places and in also in the school journal.

The school takes the safety of pupils very seriously pupils are aware of how to communicate concerns to staff including form teachers, year tutors, prefects or peer mentors. This has been helped further by 2 confidential boxes being available to pupils in which to place their concerns also the

development of a new peer mentoring system which has this year supported pupils especially in their transition to high school.

This year an email system has been established for pupils following an email system being established for staff in 2007. This has led to increased and more effective communication between pupils and staff in pastoral and work matters.

Security in school has been improved in order to ensure the safety and security of the premises; key fobs have been established in order to gain access to the school building and CCTV has been installed.

Students have a strong sense of ownership and are proud of their school. The extra curricular opportunities at St Monica's is second to none. 'there is always something to do at lunchtime and after school' (Ofsted). There are a variety of activities including Astronomy, wildlife club, homework clubs, orchestra, netball, football, sporting fixtures to name a few. 'St Monica's has also achieved 'Healthy School Status'.

Pupils are constantly developing as confident and secure young people and their learning is always improving as a result of their input into the school through school and year councils and within lessons due to increased emphasis on evaluation which has led to many changes within school.

Students are well supported and share a common goal and language of learning. Pupils are aware of what they need to do to reach their shared targets academically and are well supported in doing so. Pupils are targeted by staff who spend time interviewing pupils and putting intervention in place to help them. Pupils across the curriculum have their targets in exercise books and level descriptors are shared with pupils and are displayed in all classrooms. Pupils work is displayed and celebrated throughout the school and shared with others.

Recent editions of the school journal have had many additions year on year including target pages and criteria which is a summary of 'a good lesson' agreed by both parents and staff. Pupils on the school council researched this definition amongst others and their agreed criteria was then presented by the pupils to the staff and all year groups in the school. Students also have contributed to changes made to the reward system in school and food available in the canteen.