

Harpurhey Alternative Provision School

c/o Christ Church Parish Hall, Water Street, Harpurhey, Manchester, M9 5US

Telephone: **07432 506 703.**

Wednesday 8th February 2023.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Ofsted inspection of the provision, 29th November – 1st December 2022.

You may remember that the school was inspected by Ofsted before the Christmas break and we are now in receipt of the final report. It is a requirement of the process that we share this report with you and give you the opportunity to comment. The report will be put onto the school's website today but, should you wish, we can send you a printed copy. Simply contact the school on the usual number and we will post a copy out to you.

The report does not make good reading but I felt it my duty to offer some explanations to you. The overall mood of the report suggests that the school is unsafe. I would like to reassure you that the issues that needed to be dealt with have been corrected. I take full responsibility for this. I took the decision to move the school from its residence at North West Theatre Arts Company to the Christ Church Parish Church Hall believing these premises to offer a much better environment for the young people to learn. I authorised the move **before** I had all the safety certificates in my possession and, therefore, could not present them for inspection by Ofsted. These certificates were in the hands of the Church authorities when they should have been in mine. The Church have done an incredible amount of work to ensure that the certificates are current and shared with the school; we are very grateful for their support, which has been on-going.

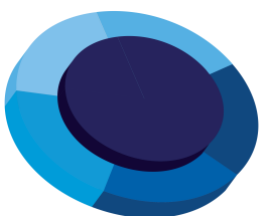
Since the inspection, visits by the Fire Service and building surveyors from Manchester City Council, amongst others, have meant that we are now better able to demonstrate our compliance with the safety requirements of the premises. I apologise most sincerely that this wasn't the case at the time of the inspection. I felt that I was making the best decision but, on reflection, I did put the safety of the young people and staff at risk. I extend an invitation to you to come to visit us, to see for yourself, and judge how safe the premises are now that we have the appropriate paperwork, simply contact us to make an appointment.

In other aspects of the report, there are several things we can do together to address some of the criticisms in the report. It is the case that the language of the young people is unacceptable and we constantly challenge them. It is, unfortunately, common language used the length and breadth of the country and all we can do, realistically, is to encourage the young people to make better choices about the words they use. The description of the pupil's behaviour is a little unfair. In lessons, the pupils engage well and are making progress. In less structured times, there is more we all need to do to help the pupils make better choices. We are working very closely with the schools that work with us and the local authority have offered their support in bringing about the changes that are seen as necessary. Our work relies on the many partnerships available to us. Amongst the things Ofsted felt that we did well was in the relationships we build with the families and the homes. Your support is crucial to us and we are grateful for it. We can 'fix' this quickly if we continue to work together.

Best wishes, yours sincerely,

Colin Bell

Proprietor.



Operated by: Manchester Collegiate Education Trust
Company number :07744158