

Mrs Hayley Hanson
Acting Headteacher
Kingsholm Church of England Primary School
Gloucester

Dear Hayley

Thank you for your warm welcome when I visited on Thursday 5th June 2025. This was my first visit and came at the end of what I know has been a challenging year for you and all at Kingsholm. I was very grateful for the time that you and Lucinda gave to my visit and also for the opportunity to see so much of the school in operation - on a wet "summer" day! Both in your office and during our tour, it was most encouraging to hear of the journey you have all been on and also of the plans for continuing progress that you and your colleagues are making. I was particularly struck by your comment that "we cannot stand still" and, as we visited classrooms, playgrounds, nursery rooms, dining rooms and vegetable gardens, this approach was very evident and throughout my visit.

Reflecting on the words that Kingsholm describes as significant in its life and journey, my visit allowed me to see the diversity of the school alongside the commonality of curiosity, kindness, support and inspiration - everywhere we went! From my research in advance and also during my visit, it quickly became apparent that Kingsholm is truly reflective of its strong and diverse local community. There is a clear acknowledgement of this diversity and the strength that it brings to the school in your vision and values: *Our Kingsholm Family, diverse, curious and kind, supporting and inspiring each other to reach our goals and shine.* What was equally evident in classroom after classroom was that culture of curiosity and inspiration - from Nursery children and their exploration of insects to the PE lesson preparing for Sports Day. Kingsholm may be one of the largest primary schools in the county but it is evident that each child is known as an individual - you and your colleagues obviously know the children (and their needs) well.

I was so impressed with the new sensory spaces and rooms and the care and attention given to providing such support for those children for whom such spaces are essential for their wellbeing and their continued progress in the school. I wish you well with your continuing search for extra funding so that even more can be provided. The level of personal care and "knowing" was also evident by the ways in which the children we met interacted with you and with your colleagues. You and your colleagues are making every effort to make true the passage from 1 Peter chapter 4 which underpins your values: *Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.* The children I met, their teachers and those who lead them evidently adopt and encourage this approach at all times.

I hope that, as this term comes to an end and, with it, a year of many unexpected twists and turns, that you and your colleagues will reflect on how well you have navigated all the challenges set in your path. Equally, these experiences and all that has been learned from

them will provide a firm foundation from which to face all that the new year will bring and on which the new head can build. You will be helped in this by your intended process of reviewing your programme and curriculum to ensure that it continues to reflect fully the Christian ethos and vision for Kingsholm.

I wish you a well-deserved Summer break and look forward to making future visits to the school.

With all best wishes and blessings for you and all at Kingsholm

Revd Mark Dunning
Bishop's Visitor

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