St Cleopas C of E Primary School

Beresford Road

Liverpool

L8 4RP

10/06/17

Dear Alan and Ian,

Thank you for supporting your school’s application for the Inclusion Charter Mark renewal in such an enthusiastic way and for inviting me to your school on Tuesday 23rdof May 2017 to conduct the verification visit. I would like to extend my thanks to Michelle Rufus as Inclusion SENDCo and member of the Senior Leadership Team. Her professionalism in preparing for the visit and coordinating the process so effectively contributed significantly to making the day so enjoyable and successful. I am also grateful to others involved on the day including colleagues amongst your support staff, parental engagement coordinator, pupils, parents and of course the governing body including June Sharkey for making the visit so purposeful and pleasurable.

The SIL SEND Team have reviewed the evidence presented collaboratively in July and I would like to warmly congratulate you on achieving the **Silver - Inclusion Charter Mark** **Award**. The silver standard award which shows your school both values and demonstrates both the values and expertise to embed inclusive practices at effective standards expected for all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs. The ICM award is valid for three years and will run from May 2017 to May 2020.

Your application for verification included the submission of an Audit tool. All five strands were completed as follows;

* Strand 1 – Outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND
* Strand 2 – Leadership and Management of SEND
* Strand 3 – Engagement of children and young people and their families
* Strand 4 – The Quality of teaching, learning and assessment for children and young people with SEN
* Strand 5 – Partnership working with others within school and outside including schools, agencies and the wider community

The strengths which have led to this recognition are that in your school;

* Michelle as SENDCo works exceptionally well with others in proactively driving improvements in SEND and Inclusion forward. This is done in a supportive and caring way with high aspirations for the children with SEND and their families. This was recognised by Ofsted in February.
* A real strength of the school is the collective vision and high aspirations in not only wanting the best for all the pupils within the schoolbut wanting the best for parents also.The school’s motto echoes this sentiment in “Live, Laugh, Learn”.
* Parents described a “very happy, lovely school” where everyone was approachable. It was evident that there was a strong ‘listening culture”. One parent described how her son had benefitted from a quiet place at home to support his needs. She described how this approach was brought into the school in to support his learning in a personalised way. Another parent described how the school had “listened to her from the beginning”.
* The Parental Engagement Officer and other members of support staff work well as a team and new and effective initiatives to engage parents are very beneficial e.g. “Build a Bridge of Books”.
* Ofsted recognised in their report that “Pupils who have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities are taught well and make good progress. They receive carefully tailored support to enable them to develop the specific skills they require. The sensory nurture room and ‘round house’ facility meet the needs of vulnerable pupils”. It was recognised outcomes in learning readiness were good for pupils who have struggled socially and emotionally.

During the feedback which celebrated the key strengths it was also agreed that areas to develop might include the following:

* Michelle Rufus, as SENDCo, is in a very good position to support and share excellent inclusive SEND practices and procedures city wide with other schools seeking improvement in this area. This was discussed at verification and I would have no hesitation in signposting others to Michelle to benefit from her expertise and practice.
* Pupils’ learning support plans could benefit from being reviewed as documents as they don’t currently do justice to the personalised learning approaches so evident in practice on the day.
* The school might consider reviewing the SEN Information report with parents by asking parents to be involved in the process. This collaboration would mean it was more accessible to them and would build on the already very good parental engagement practices.

The school is an improving school with a positive learning ethos and as such is very clear about next steps for development. This was evident in the school’s recent Ofsted inspection and in verbal contributions on the day. The commitment to improve is very strong.

St Cleopas C of E Primary School is a very inclusive school. The school has a positive and caring ethos in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

On behalf of School Improvement Liverpool, I would like to thank St Cleopas for their commitment in improving the outcomes for the children and young people in Liverpool. I am proud to congratulate you on your successes and commitment in gaining the Inclusion Charter Mark.

Yours sincerely,

C.M.McDermott

Catherine McDermott

School Improvement Officer – SEND/Inclusive Learning