



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

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Mrs Mairead O'Neill -Dowell
St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary School
Merseyside
Harris Drive
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L20 6ED

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Dear Mrs O'Neill-Dowell,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 97 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools