

Media Release

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‘Ambitious for pupils’: Les Varendes High School rated ‘Good’ in three Ofsted areas

Les Varendes High School has achieved ‘Good’ for Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Welfare, and Leadership and Management in its first Ofsted inspection, with Quality of Education graded as ‘Requires Improvement’.

The inspection report found Les Varendes High School to be a welcoming school community, where ‘leaders have skilfully and diligently supported pupils and staff through the recent school merger’ with La Mare de Carteret High School, and have already built warm, trusting relationships throughout the school.

The report states that the school:

- is ambitious for students and has high expectations for behaviour.
- offers a broad and balanced curriculum and has proactively engaged in curriculum development work across the Secondary School Partnership.
- has clear routines to ensure that disruption to learning is reducing and not tolerated.
- delivers strong personal development, with students benefitting from an extensive range of clubs and activities, including cooking, crafts, dance, gardening and competitive sport.
- has reading as a priority area, with the weakest readers quickly identified and supported to catch up and keep up with their peers.
- has a key focus on attendance, with raised expectations and close tracking informing timely support for students and families.

The report identifies areas for improvement relating to assessment and the precision with which teaching is adapted to meet students’ needs. It also highlights that checks that teachers make to assess how well students have learned the curriculum do not identify students’ starting points or gaps in their knowledge.

The report found that the Senior Leaders of the school had an accurate self-evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for improvement, which had already been integrated into the school's detailed development plan. This includes a focus on developing subject leaders to provide oversight of their areas. Throughout this process, leadership has remained committed to balancing improvement strategies with staff wellbeing and workload. Where weaknesses have been identified there is a clear commitment to improve, with the aim of ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education.

Verona Tomlin, Principal of Les Varendes High School, said:

“Les Varendes has been on a huge journey over the last two years, as we have merged two schools and undergone a period of significant transformation. This inspection has confirmed what we already knew about our school - there were no surprises, and the areas identified for improvement are the same priorities already embedded in our development plan.

“While we recognise there is still work to be done, we remain fully committed to our journey of growth. Our school has been stabilised, merged and enhanced with great care, and honesty and clarity are central to our approach. I am so proud of the work staff across the school have done to date to achieve this result; I am looking forward to what’s ahead and the improvements I am confident we will achieve together.”

Liz Coffey, Executive Principal of the Secondary School Partnership, said:

“The report recognises that Verona Tomlin and the leadership team understand their school and have stabilised it effectively after such a period of change. They are actively supporting staff wellbeing and committed to addressing weaker areas so that every student receives a high-quality education. It is so pleasing that staff have been active participants in the work undertaken across the Secondary School Partnership, particularly relating to Curriculum Alignment. This is supporting the required areas for improvement in the 'Quality of Education'.”

Nick Hynes, Director of Education, said:

“The staff and students at Les Varendes High School have gone through a period of significant instability over the previous two years, and to have achieved this positive Ofsted result in light of this should be highly commended. Importantly, the inspection recognises that the leadership team are aware of areas for development, and that there is a clear commitment and plan in place to improve. Exemplifying this, recent staff training on the new Code of Practice and High-Quality Inclusive Practice

demonstrates this proactive and focused leadership approach, which is the key to continued improvement. With this roadmap already in place, I have no doubt that the school will only go from strength to strength.”

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

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Notes to Media

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