



**Nick Gibb MP**

Minister of State for School Standards

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Mrs Belinda Haigh  
St Gabriel's Church of England Primary School  
Wilworth Crescent  
Blackburn  
BB1 8QN

24 October 2016

Dear Mrs Haigh,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for your school's outstanding achievement in the 2016 phonics screening check.

We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 100 per cent of pupils at St Gabriel's Church of England Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

I am pleased to hear that you have ensured all Year One children at St Gabriel's Church of England Primary School have a firm foundation in reading, from which they can develop further and become increasingly fluent readers. This will help them develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Nick Gibb MP**