

Tribal
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 3115319
Direct F 0117 3150430
Direct email: matthew.parker@tribalgroup.com



16 November 2012

Dr James Lane
St Francis de Sales RC Junior School
Church Road
London
N17 8AZ

Dear Dr Lane

Requires improvement first monitoring inspection visit of St Francis de Sales RC Junior School, Haringey

Following my visit to your school on 15 November 2012 I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

This monitoring inspection visit was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, the Chair and a member of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated and the inspector talked to pupils.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

Main findings

A new interim headteacher took up post two weeks before the September 2012 inspection. He has experience of making schools better. The inspection judged that the school was 'rapidly developing systems' to make teaching better. These developments are beginning to work and improvement this term has been quick. Currently school records show around half the teaching to be good. The headteacher understands where teaching is already good and where it needs to get better. He has correctly identified common weaknesses such as marking. Training has already taken place and as a result, marking has improved. The headteacher has used his

previous experience of working for the local authority to identify outstanding schools for staff to visit. He sent all teachers to see these schools in operation. They are using what they have discovered to work together with the aim of developing better lessons. Governors now understand information about pupils' progress better. They are aware of how money made available by the pupil premium is being directed towards more support for pupils, by for example employing extra teachers to give help in spelling and systematic phonics (regular practice at linking letters and sounds). Governors have been helped by the headteacher to expect more of teachers who earn higher salaries, for example requiring them to support new teachers. Governors now visit the school for events involving teachers and parents, but have not yet visited lessons. They have joined teachers for training sessions.

Subject leaders are beginning to play a greater part in getting the school to 'good'. Teachers increasingly plan together and this is helping to spread the best teaching. Subject leaders have worked hard to help Year 6 pupils do better in national tests, but they need further help to understand how to improve pupils' learning in all classes. Governors have been involved in writing the school's action plan. This has sharp targets to improve the school to good with steps to check progress. It provides a useful set of requirements for all lessons.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- strengthen subject leaders' ability to improve teaching and learning through monitoring teachers' work
- make sure that teachers follow the agreed whole school set of principles for teaching contained in the action plan.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection

External support

Since the inspection, staff from the local authority have worked with the school with the aim of improving teaching in mathematics and English. Other training has been provided on how to make use of information about pupils to help them do better. Teachers have visited a school with expertise in marking which was identified by the local authority. Staff are visiting the school to help to train newly qualified teachers.

I am copying this note of visit to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, Director of Education for the Archdiocese of Westminster and the Director of Children's Services for Haringey.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lyons

Her Majesty's Inspector