

CfBT Inspection Services  
Suite 22, West Lancashire  
Investment Centre  
Maple View  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 9TG

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 618 8524 **Direct T** 01695 566932  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk **Direct F** 01695 729320  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) **Direct email:**



30 November 2012

Mrs Lynne Worden  
Headteacher  
St John Vianney Catholic Primary School  
Glastonbury Avenue  
Marton  
Blackpool  
FY1 6RD

Dear Mrs Worden

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St John Vianney Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 30 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, governors, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority (LA). The inspector evaluated a range of documentation including: the school improvement plan; the tracking of pupils' progress and records of lesson observations. In addition, senior staff took the HMI on a tour of the school to look at the teaching in mathematics and the changes made since the last inspection.

#### **Context**

There have been no significant changes to staff or the school's organisation since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

Following the inspection in September the school has reacted positively and taken appropriate action to lay the foundations for improvements in pupils' learning and in raising their achievement. The increased focus on mathematics and improving the progress of more-able pupils is beginning to pay greater dividends. There is a purposeful and settled air to the school with pupils excited by many of the topics and activities in lessons.

Systems to check more rigorously on teaching and learning are gathering pace. Senior leaders are regularly checking on the quality of lessons and pupils' work. However, further improvements are required in pinpointing with precision the achievement of pupils and groups in lessons and in measuring the impact of teaching on pupils' progress more accurately.

The school improvement plan has been reviewed in line with the recommendations for improvement from the September inspection. However, some of the targets and criteria for measuring success are not as sharp as they could be. This makes it difficult for leaders, including the governing body, to assess the impact of actions taken overtime.

Governors are committed to see the school move forward and are aware of actions required. They are increasing their knowledge of what goes on in school. There is still further work to be done to develop their confidence to act as a critical friend and hold senior leaders to account.

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 the monitoring of teaching with a clearer focus on how effectively pupils learn and make progress in lessons
- sharpen the school improvement plan to include clear and measurable targets against which success can be judged.

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

## **External support**

The support from the LA has been well targeted and effective. On-going work to support the school in raising pupils' achievement in mathematics, particularly for more-able pupils, is building the confidence of staff and improving provision. The LA is committed to developing the skills of leaders and managers at all levels to enable them to monitor the quality of provision and use the outcomes of this to inform strategies for further improvement.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Blackpool.

Yours sincerely

Steve Isherwood  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**