

Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1LH

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

Direct T 0121 683 3260
Direct email: antony.grace@serco.com



17 December 2012

Mr Glyn Julian
Acting Headteacher
St Giles CE VA Primary School
Sheepcote Road
Killamarsh
Sheffield
S21 1DU

Dear Mr Julian

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Giles CE VA Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 14 December 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the acting headteacher, representatives of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

The acting headteacher will leave the school at the end of the current term. A new substantive headteacher has been appointed and will join the school in January 2013. There have been no changes in the school's status since the last inspection.

Main findings

The school has responded positively to the findings of the last inspection report. Leaders and the Governing Body are united in their determination to improve the quality of teaching and raise pupils' achievement. An appropriate action plan to

address the issues raised at the last inspection has been implemented. However, some sections of the plan require further detail and clarification. Leaders agreed to amend the plan to clarify the amount of progress pupils in each year group are expected to make each term in reading, writing and mathematics, and the standards pupils are expected to reach at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 in 2013.

Leaders have stepped up their activities to help identify how teachers can improve their performance. For example, through observing more lessons they are better able to inform teachers what they should do to improve their practice. However, leaders do not systematically check that teachers have acted upon their advice.

The Governing Body has a stronger understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school, including a more thorough understanding of pupils' achievement. As a result they are able to offer increasing challenge to school leaders. Governors also have clear termly plans to check that actions in the school development plan are on track and making the intended impact.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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:

- amend the school action plan to clarify the expectations of pupils' progress each term and the standards they are expected to reach at the end of Years 2 and 6
- ensure that leaders check more rigorously that teachers are meeting their improvement targets.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. The school will submit its revised action plan to the HMI by the end of January 2013.

External support

Since the last inspection the local authority has supported the school in drawing up an action plan to tackle the weaknesses identified at the last inspection. Further support has been provided including joint checking of pupils' work with senior leaders, training to improve teachers' skills in assessing pupils' work, and work with the Governing Body to help governors to provide greater challenge to leaders. The work has been welcomed and greatly appreciated by leaders and the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector