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17 January 2013

Mrs J Donaldson
Christ Church C of E Primary School
Clarence Road
Kilburn
London
NW6 7TE

Dear Mrs Donaldson

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Christ Church C of E Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 16 January 2013, 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 headteacher, the National Leader of Education from the support school, three members of the governing body, a senior adviser from the London Diocesan Board for Schools and an adviser from the local authority. The school's development planning was scrutinised and visits were made to lessons.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection, two teachers have left the school. Leadership of their classes is being provided by the assistant headteacher and the deputy headteacher. The mathematics coordinator has stepped down and leadership of mathematics is being covered by the headteacher. A leadership support partnership, with an outstanding diocesan school in another London borough, has been recently brokered through the National College for School Leadership.

Main findings

The strengths noted in the section 5 report continue, including the commitment of the headteacher and the increasing expertise of the governing body. The headteacher has taken decisive action to deal with some inadequate teaching although inconsistencies remain, particularly in teachers' expectations for high standards of pupils' work and the way that different tasks are set for pupils of different abilities. The Chair of the Governing Body has effectively assembled and organised a team of governors with knowledge and experience of educational, legal and financial matters. He is determined to raise standards. However, a key area for improvement from the section 5 inspection – to sharpen the school's development planning – has not been addressed adequately. There remains no clear vision for exactly what needs to be done, by when and by whom, in order for the school to be considered for a good judgement at the next inspection.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection, because the school's plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- write a new two-year school development plan that states, unequivocally, the targets that the school needs to meet in order to be considered good overall; the actions required to meet these targets; who is responsible for meeting them; and how the school's progress will be monitored and evaluated. This plan should be drafted and sent to HMI by 31 January 2013.

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

External support

The local authority has continued to provide support through visits from a mathematics adviser and through the school support group. However, much of this work has been responding to situations as they arise; there has been limited long-term strategic planning for the school. The National Leader of Education has already developed a good knowledge of the school's context and needs, and has a clear understanding of what needs to be done. HMI recommends that the local authority and diocesan board seek to extend the arrangement with the partner school, to include support for classroom teachers as well as for school leaders.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Brent, and as below.

Yours sincerely

Mark Phillips
Her Majesty's Inspector