

Tribal  
1-4 Portland Place  
Bristol  
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** +44 (0)117 3115319  
**Direct F** + 44 (0)117 3150430  
**Direct email:** matthew.parker@tribalgroup.com

14 January 2013

Mrs J Millward  
St Peter's C of E (VA) Primary School  
The Green  
Cassington  
Whitney  
Oxon  
OX29 4DN

Dear Mrs Millward

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Peter's C of E (VA) Primary School**

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

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, subject leaders, members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated and outcomes from performance management were scrutinised.

**Context**

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

## **Main findings**

The outcomes of the Section 5 inspection are fully understood by the headteacher, and governing body and this has galvanised efforts to address the areas of weakness identified. The school improvement plan has been updated and this together with subject leaders' plans and teachers' new performance targets show how the key areas of improvement are being tackled.

There is a clear timetable for lesson observations and meetings with teachers to check the quality of teaching and pupils' progress. This is helping to identify the impact of improvements made so far and ensure that pupils learn well and are on track to meet their targets.

Subject leaders know much more about their role and have started to identify more clearly how they will contribute to improving the school's performance and raising pupils' achievements. Training has helped subject leaders identify the skills they need to develop and plans are in place to achieve this. There is an increasing sense that all staff are accountable for their work.

Although there are processes in place to monitor the progress of improvements these could be sharper. If some specific steps required to meet success criteria had greater clarity and shorter time constraints it would add further urgency and rigour to the improvement process. For example being clearer about how some changes might happen more quickly and be checked within days and weeks rather than longer periods.

The Governing Body received some training immediately after the inspection. Governors have heightened their knowledge of, for example, how to use published pupil performance information to check how well the school is doing. They are more confident in holding the school to account. Weekly meetings with the headteacher, in addition to the usual governors' meetings, have added extra opportunities for dialogue and challenge. The Governing Body has agreed that more information about the quality of teaching should be requested from the headteacher. They have agreed there will be greater involvement of governors in observing the school in action and reporting back findings.

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:

- give additional urgency to improvements by identifying the steps for success that could be implemented and checked more quickly
- ensure that the Governing Body has a process in place to evaluate the effectiveness of its actions.

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

## **External support**

The school has worked closely with the local authority who have provided effective support in helping subject leaders to develop clarity in their role and to enhance the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The headteacher should work closely with the local authority to identify schools where outstanding practice may be observed in order for teachers to enhance their skills.

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

Yours sincerely

Daniel Towl

**Her Majesty's Inspector**