

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 January 2012

Mr Tony Halloran
Headteacher
St Pius X RC Primary School
Gatehouse Avenue
Withywood
Bristol
BS13 9AB

Dear Mr Halloran

Special measures monitoring inspection of St Pius X RC 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 confirm the inspection findings. I was grateful for the help given during the inspection and for the time made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2012.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the two local authority representatives who currently lead the school in the absence of the headteacher. Meetings were also held with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and the deputy headteacher. The local authority's statement of action and support plan to raise attainment were evaluated.

Context

The headteacher has been absent due to sickness since the end of November 2012. The school is currently being led by a school improvement officer and a teaching and learning consultant from the local authority.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The local authority moved promptly to arrange interim leadership, in the headteacher's absence, and avoid any delay to the school's improvement. In addition, visits from local authority consultants are being targeted appropriately. Both temporary leaders know the school well and have supported it for some time. The interim leaders have, rightly, concentrated their early efforts on improving teaching and pupils' progress. Some important work has started to improve the accuracy of teachers' assessments so that pupils' future learning and progress can be evaluated reliably.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body have responded positively to the inspection. They have not been daunted by the special measures judgement and are keen to be more informed about the school's progress in providing a better education for the pupils. Both keep in regular and close touch with the interim leaders.

Senior leaders did not manage to compile a suitable plan for improvement prior to the headteacher's absence. The interim leaders are therefore using the local authority's plan for improvement in the meantime. This is aligned well to the areas for improvement and provides a clear way forward for the school. However, the arrangements for monitoring each action and evaluating the impact are not consistently clear. Sometimes, the person responsible for leading an action is also responsible for checking its success. The plan states that governors will monitor the school's improvement but not necessarily who will do this, how and when.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, Clifton Diocese, and the Director of Children's Services for Bristol. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Dickinson
Her Majesty's Inspector