

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 311 5319
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Direct email: matthew.parker@tribalgroup.com

1 March 2013

Mrs Lyn Downes
The Interim Headteacher
Bramley Church of England Primary School
Bramley Lane
Bramley
Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 5AH

Dear Mrs Downes

Special measures monitoring inspection of Bramley Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 1 March 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you 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 November 2012.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, the English and mathematics subject leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and representatives of the local authority. Informal discussions took place with pupils. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the previous inspection the substantive headteacher has retired and an experienced headteacher has been seconded to be the interim headteacher. Several teachers have moved to teach different year groups.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The interim headteacher has brought a steady hand to this school. She has quickly moved to ensure that essential policies are in place and teachers are clear about expectations. Action plans are focused on improving the monitoring of teaching. As a result, middle leaders are developing their skills at evaluating the quality of teaching and learning. The school has produced short term plans that quickly focus on moving forward on the areas identified at the last inspection. These plans have a clear set of deadlines to tie in with the longer term milestones set out in the local authority's statement of action.

Subject plans are beginning to be adapted to take account of inspection findings. The deputy headteacher is working with the English leader to produce a plan for improving the quality of pupils' writing. This plan is clear about the actions to be taken and the broad outcomes expected, but it does not identify specific timings or the improvement milestones necessary to measure how well these initiatives are working. Leaders at all levels are keen to improve their skills and focused on school improvement.

The local authority has prepared a suitable statement of action. The actions are appropriate and focus on improving the capacity of leadership at all levels so that school improvement becomes self-sustaining. The local authority has brokered the support of the school where the interim headteacher holds her substantive post. Teachers and leaders have worked alongside colleagues from this school in developing their understanding of classroom management, teaching methods and leadership. This partnership is reported by teachers to be a positive one and plans are in place to extend this joint working further. The local authority has set out suitably focused monitoring arrangements and additional support from consultants and advisers.

Pupils say that the school is improving. They say that their work is better because teachers expect more from them. Pupils also say that behaviour is improving in class because silly behaviour is dealt with quickly by the class teacher and the headteacher. Equally, pupils confirm that they enjoy receiving the headteacher's awards and know that they are rewarded for working hard.

The governing body is improving. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body are both knowledgeable governors who have experience of governance from serving on other governing bodies. Established governors speak positively about the improved leadership of the governing body. Many other governors are new and are developing their skills through a range of training courses. Governors have a much clearer view of the strengths and weaknesses within the school. They have made

sure that performance management procedures are focused on the most important areas of improvement.

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 appoint one newly qualified teacher before the next monitoring inspection, to start teaching no earlier than September 2013.

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

Yours sincerely

Michael Sheridan
Her Majesty's Inspector