

Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

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

Direct T: 0121 679 9168  
Direct email: [beverley.joyner@serco.com](mailto:beverley.joyner@serco.com)



Paul Hayward  
St Andrew's CofE (C) Primary School  
Ferrers Road  
Weston  
Stafford  
ST18 0JN

Dear Mr Hayward

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Andrew's CofE (C) Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 11 March 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 on 28 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, representatives from the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated, a number of short visits to lessons were made and school documentation was examined.

#### **Context**

Since the last inspection the school has increased the number of classes from six to seven. Three teaching assistants and one administrative assistant have left the school and a new teacher has been employed. An internal appointment has been made to appoint a new subject leader for mathematics.

#### **Main findings**

The school community responded positively to the inspection that took place in November 2012 and leaders are working hard on agreed priorities to improve the school. Roles and responsibilities for the senior leadership team have been reviewed

and leaders are clearer about what is expected of them. A development plan is in place which is focused on the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. The plan includes actions to support change and clearly shows how the school will monitor its success. Staff are aware of what needs to improve and training and professional development are linked to identified areas for improvement. The headteacher is aware that teaching needs to improve. To date there have been few opportunities for staff to observe good and outstanding practice in other schools.

Pupils' progress is now regularly monitored and teachers are becoming more accountable for the standards pupils reach. Monitoring the quality of teaching is becoming more rigorous. The leadership team are observing lessons, looking at pupils' work and reviewing how teachers plan lessons. A new homework policy has been introduced. Leaders in school are checking that the policy is adhered to and that it is making a difference to pupils' outcomes.

Improving mathematics was identified as a priority for the school. As a result, a new subject leader has been appointed. Work is developing to improve mathematics across the school, for example, ensuring pupils receive mental mathematics homework on a regular basis.

The governing body is keen to improve. They are committed to the school and are gaining a better understanding of data. They have redesigned the sub-committees, with formalised agenda items with a focus on school improvement. They are aware of school priorities and are beginning to understand how they can better challenge school leaders. Governors are now observing learning in lessons so they can better understand the school's strengths and weaknesses. The governing body is working to improve communication with parents and carers. They have held a meeting to share the findings from the Ofsted report. Furthermore, they send home regular updates on the progress made against the school's main priorities. Individual governors are beginning to access training to improve their effectiveness, but training is not used enough by all governors.

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:

- access an external review of the governing body
- attend Ofsted school improvement seminars with a focus on mathematics and English
- observe good and outstanding practice in a range of schools
- develop support programmes for teachers on identified areas for improvement.

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

## **External support**

Local authority officers review the school's performance on a termly basis. They have facilitated a partnership between St Andrew's and a Local Leader of Education which has been very well received by the school. Local authority officers have also arranged for the mathematics subject leader to work alongside an experienced subject leader from a local outstanding school.

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

Yours sincerely

Jane Millward  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**