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Lynette Holden-Gough  
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School  
Ashmore Avenue  
Ashmore Park  
Wolverhampton  
WV11 2LT

Dear Ms Holden-Gough

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 08 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 in. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, four members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A range of documentation was reviewed including records linked to performance management and the observation of teaching.

## **Context**

There have been no significant changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

## **Main findings**

School leaders and staff have acted promptly to address the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection report. The revised improvement plan identifies clearly the school's ambitions to raise achievement by improving the quality teaching and learning. For example, it states the levels of attainment and the rates of progress to be achieved by the oldest pupils in each of the next three years. However, the plan is less precise in its identification of the actions that will be taken to achieve these targets. The school improvement plan does not identify the specific actions that will be taken to further develop leadership. Nevertheless, significant changes have already been made to strengthen the leadership of English and mathematics. The plan also makes very little reference to the role the governing body will play in monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school's actions.

The school has begun using its strongest staff to provide training and coaching to help others who are judged as requiring improvement. This initiative is leading to a strong spirit of collaboration throughout the school and bringing benefits to all teachers. Teachers now plan together and readily share the outcomes of their pupils' work. Subject leaders have performance targets linked to pupil achievement in areas for which they are responsible. The school has effective systems in place for checking regularly the work of teachers and discussing with them the progress pupils are making.

Systems are now in place which will help ensure that the governing body receives plenty of information about pupils' progress and the quality of teaching. However, governors acknowledge that there is a need for them to develop further the skills which will enable them to check more independently on the quality of education and the impact the school is having on pupils' learning.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that further action is taken to:

- ensure the school improvement plan identifies the actions the school is taking to tackle all of the areas identified as in need of improvement in the recent inspection report, including those related to leadership and governance
- ensure that all governors receive training to enable them, for example through analysis of school data, to hold school leaders to account.

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

### **External support**

The local authority works closely with the school. It has confidence in the capacity of the school's leaders to secure the improvements necessary to help the school become a good school. A local authority officer regularly visits the school to ensure that it continues to improve and that it tackles appropriately the key issues from the recent inspection. Close partnerships with other local schools, including two National Teaching Schools, are helping to build the skills of teachers who were judged to require improvement and ensure that teacher assessments of pupils' work are accurate

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Wolverhampton and the Diocese of Birmingham.

Yours sincerely

Anthony O'Malley  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**