

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

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T: 0121 679 9162
Direct email: siobhan.garrattley@serco.com

21 March 2013

Mrs Pauline Turner
Headteacher
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School
Grange Road
Northampton
NN3 2AX

Dear Mrs Turner

Special measures monitoring inspection of St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 20 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, governors, a representative of the local authority, a representative from the Catholic Diocese of Northampton and senior members of staff. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement action plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, the consultation process carried out with stakeholders and parents about plans to hard federate the school with three other local catholic schools has been completed. The hard federation will commence on 1 June 2013.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Since the inspection, the headteacher, working effectively with the local authority and other school improvement partners, has accurately identified the weaknesses in leadership and teaching that need tackling. These are being addressed; the school's raising attainment plan and the local authority statement of action underpin this and are useful working documents. Some inadequate teaching still remains in school, but it is being dealt with appropriately and with the necessary urgency. All teachers are benefiting from training and coaching to improve their practice. The quality and impact of senior leaders is variable. The leadership of mathematics, for example is effective. However, other aspects, such as the management of the performance of teachers, remain the sole responsibility of the headteacher as other leaders do not yet have the necessary skills to carry this out.

Members of the governing body are demonstrating a much greater understanding of their role in holding school leaders to account. They have taken advantage of training and links with schools where governance is a strength to improve their work. They have a much better understanding of their responsibilities with regard to ensuring that staff are rewarded appropriately for their work. They demonstrate that they are much more knowledgeable than at the time of the inspection. Governors now visit the school regularly to check on aspects of its work. They have investigated in detail the characteristic of the pupils in school who are eligible to benefit from the pupil premium funding. They are now well placed to check that the funds are best used to raise standards for this group in the future. Governors are preparing for the move to hard federate with other local schools; they are fully aware that these arrangements must not affect the positive start that the school has made to improve teaching and learning.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's raising attainment 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, the Director of Children's Services for Northampton Local Authority and the Episcopal Vicar of Education for the Northampton Diocese. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bristow

Her Majesty's Inspector