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16 April 2013

Mrs Valaire Tighe
Churchill Church of England Primary School
Pudding Pie Lane
Bristol
BS40 5EL

Dear Mrs Tighe

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Churchill Church of England Primary School, North Somerset

Following my visit to your school on 16 April 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During my visit, I held meetings with you and other senior leaders. In the course of the meeting with the mathematics leader we looked at a sample of pupils' work. I met with the Chair of the Governing Body and three other governors. I also had a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated. You and I did a tour of the school together and you introduced me to staff. I talked to pupils about what they were learning in lessons.

Context

There have been no staffing changes or changes to the governing body since the inspection in October 2012.

Main findings

You are leading the school in a determined manner. The coaching you provide for teachers, which develops their classroom skills, is well received by staff. There is a more consistent whole school policy towards teachers' lesson planning than previously. This is because teachers now use data more effectively to set work and to gauge if pupils are working at the right level and making progress in English and mathematics. Added to this there is a greater challenge, especially for more able pupils. Teachers routinely make notes on their plans following lessons and put extra help in quickly for those who need it.

Your school action plan is sharp with timely and appropriate actions. Governors are clear about how to evaluate the success of school actions to strengthen and improve the quality of teaching. Members of the governing body have responsibility for monitoring all aspects of the school's work. Governors have a better understanding of what to look for when they do this. I agree with the governors, who said that they found information from the mathematics subject leader very useful in helping them know how well pupils were doing in mathematics.

You and your senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, we agreed that further action was needed to:

- ensure that the teacher with responsibility for leading mathematics challenges teachers to guide pupils in lessons and mark their work so that pupils are clear about how to improve the quality of their work.

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

External support

Your school appreciates the training from the local authority. Teachers say they found support for their classroom teaching and subject leadership very helpful. The mathematics subject leader commented to me on how her confidence in leading this area has grown as a result of the advice she has received. Governors praise the work of the local authority in helping them to use their skills in a more focused way to challenge and support the school in taking the appropriate steps to becoming at least a good school.

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

Yours sincerely

Jane Neech
Her Majesty's Inspector