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23 April 2013

Mrs Elaine Burdiss
Headteacher
Elmsett Church of England VC Primary School
Elmsett
IP7 6PA

Dear Mrs Burdiss

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Elmsett Church of England VC Primary School, Suffolk local authority.

Following my visit to your school on 22 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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and three members of the Governing Body. The school improvement plan and the latest headteachers' report to the Governing Body were evaluated.

Context

Since the last inspection a new headteacher has been appointed. An existing member of staff has joined the senior leadership team. A new chair of the Governing Body has been appointed.

Main findings

Suitable plans are in place to improve the quality of teaching and to strengthen the way senior leaders monitor it. They include clear success criteria, timescales and dates to evaluate the improvements made. The curriculum has been revised to include English and mathematics lessons every day. Analysis of progress data each

half-term is enabling senior leaders and teachers to closely monitor how well individual pupils are doing.



The headteacher has begun to check the quality of teaching and its impact on pupils' progress. A programme of lesson observations carried out jointly between the headteacher and local authority adviser is under way. They are also scrutinising the quality of pupils' work and teachers' planning. The information gained from this monitoring will inform a review of the school's provision from September 2013. Governance has been reorganised. Recent training in how to interpret performance data has enabled the Governing Body to increase its support and challenge for the newly appointed headteacher.

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:

- strengthen procedures to manage the performance of all staff by providing them with up to date, rigorous targets for improvement and using this information to gain a clear view of their strengths and weaknesses and their future training needs
- re-visit the school next term to review the progress made in improving the quality of teaching and evaluate its impact on pupils' progress.

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

External support

The school has welcomed additional, regular support from the local authority, including the stronger partnerships it has brokered with other local schools. The headteacher values the support and guidance provided for her in her new leadership role.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector