

Tribal
1–4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 311 5323
Direct email: suzy.smith@tribalgroupp.com

2 May 2013

Mr Jon Fox
The Headteacher
Reculver Church of England Primary School
Hillborough
Herne Bay
CT6 6TA

Dear Mr Fox

Special measures monitoring inspection of Reculver Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 1 May 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 January 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, leaders of mathematics and reading, the Chair of the Interim Executive Board and representatives from the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the previous inspection the governing body has been disbanded and an interim executive board established. The deputy headteacher has recently returned to school following a significant period of sickness absence.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The headteacher, local authority and Chair of the Interim Executive Board are determined to bring about rapid school improvement. School plans are sharply focused and prioritised on most urgent areas of improvement. They indicate clearly what is to be done, when and how. Measures are in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of these actions in terms of better outcomes for pupils. A number of actions and considerable training have already taken place to improve the range of weaknesses previously identified. For example, behaviour has already improved significantly as a result of a review of the behaviour policy, shared and clearly understood expectations and a more consistent approach to the use of sanctions and rewards.

Developing the effectiveness of the governing body was identified as one of the priorities at the previous inspection. At the time of this monitoring visit, the interim executive board was due to hold its first meeting. Newly-recruited board members are highly experienced and possess the right skills and knowledge to carry out their roles. However, effective governance to support and challenge the school to date has been absent.

The local authority's statement of action clearly addresses all of the issues identified at the January inspection. Targets are challenging and there is an appropriate sense of urgency. The school has benefited very significantly from the range of high quality, carefully tailored support provided by the local authority. This level of support has been vital in securing swift improvements, including in the teaching of reading. A wide-ranging package, including training to improve the quality of teaching, coaching to strengthen subject leadership and visits to observe outstanding teaching in another local school, has been well received by staff who are motivated to improve. In collaboration with the headteacher and Chair of the Interim Executive Board, the local authority has agreed to consider the appointment of an experienced school leader on a temporary basis to support the headteacher as he is currently carrying too great a workload.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made.

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's action 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 Interim Executive Board and the Director of Children's Services for Kent Local Authority. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Macdonald

Her Majesty's Inspector