

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 1231231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566855
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
gail.hill@cfbt.com



15 May 2013

Mrs Christine Gabbott
Headteacher
Pickhill Church of England Primary School
The Green
Pickhill
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 4JL

Dear Mrs Gabbott

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Pickhill Church of England Primary School, North Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 14 May 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 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. I reviewed a range of documentation including the school's development plan, lesson observation records and information about pupils' current achievements in class. In addition, I undertook a tour of the school and had a brief conversation with the staff during the lunch break.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the section 5 inspection, which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

The headteacher has a clear understanding of what needs to be done. School development plans include all the areas for improvement. The headteacher and governors are currently working with the local authority advisor to sharpen the plan to ensure that the actions specified are firmly linked to timely, measurable outcomes and the intended impact on pupils' learning and achievements is made explicit. Common systems to monitor and track pupils' progress have been implemented and are beginning to improve the staff's ability to pitch activities at the right level for individual pupils and to raise expectations of what pupils can achieve. More frequent monitoring of teaching by the headteacher is giving a clearer indication of the quality of teaching; although the headteacher recognises that the feedback from lesson observations is not always as constructively critical as it should be. A range of appropriate strategies to inject more rigour and link the monitoring of teaching with wider performance management strategies are currently being discussed and agreed with the local authority adviser and governors.

Governors are committed and demonstrate a clear intent to make a difference to the school. A revised committee structure and regular visits have resulted in a secure understanding of what is going on in school and this has improved the governors' ability to hold the headteacher and staff to account for the impact of their work.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. HMI alerted the school to the Ofsted *getting to good* seminar taking place later this term and recommended that representatives of the school participate. The headteacher and representatives of the governing body expressed their keenness to attend.

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

External support

Specialist advice and support provided by the local authority is helping the headteacher and governors to tackle the key priorities. The headteacher is held to account effectively through regular monitoring visits.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for North Yorkshire and the Church of England Diocese of Ripon as below.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

Her Majesty's Inspector