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10 May 2013

Mrs M Hulme
Headteacher
St Charles' Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
Norfolk Street
Hull
HU2 9AA

Dear Mrs Hulme

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Charles' Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, City of Kingston upon Hull City

Following my visit to your school on 9 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 February. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and records of lesson observations were also evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes in the school since the last inspection.

Main finding

The development plan has been rewritten taking into account the findings of the last inspection. It follows the areas for improvement but lacks detail, and needs to focus on much clearer success criteria. The headteacher has a good grasp of what needs to be done, and the challenges which are ahead. You have started well by introducing systematic lesson observations focussing on how staff can improve their teaching.

This is now being followed up by other senior and middle leaders observing teachers, and then coaching each other to ensure a more consistent approach across the school. This gives the middle leaders a much clearer focus on their areas of responsibility and enables them to influence the quality of teaching.

The headteacher is tracking pupils across the school. This provides evidence that there is inconsistency in the amount progress made in different year groups. This evidence, with the lesson observations carried out by the school and Local Authority confirms that the quality of teaching is still variable, and needs to be improved as a matter of urgency, so that there are more lessons which are good or better.

The wider leadership have embraced the challenge from the last inspection, and are also clear about what needs to be done. However they recognise that they need to increase capacity at leadership level to support the headteacher in driving forward their plans.

As mentioned in the February inspection report, the governors are very supportive of the school and are actively engaged and visible in and around the school. The headteacher is focussing them on the challenges ahead and the LA are offering training which will give them the tools to really be able to offer challenge to the headteacher. They now need to put this into practice and be more proactive in their questioning of the leadership, focusing on the quality of the teaching and the achievement of the pupils.

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:

- obtain a review of the quality of governance and act on the advice given
- ensure that action is taken to eradicate the variability in the quality of teaching in different classes
- strengthen the leadership team to help the headteacher drive through the actions on the development plan.

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

External support

The Local Authority is offering effective support to the school, and the school is embracing the help and advice offered. The school needs to continue to work with the Local Authority and Diocese to identify a high performing school to support the school to make the necessary improvements.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for The City of Kingston upon Hull.

Yours sincerely

Robert Pritchard

Her Majesty's Inspector