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16 May 2013

Mr Paul Lailey
Headteacher
Cranham Church of England Primary School
Cranham
Gloucester
Gloucestershire
GL4 8HS

Dear Mr Lailey

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Cranham Church of England Primary School, Gloucestershire

Following my visit to your school on 16 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 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you and your key stage one teacher, five members of the governing body and a representative of the Local Authority. I toured the school with a teacher and was able to see pupils at work. During lunchtime I met with a group of Key Stage 2 pupils and looked at their work in books and discussed changes since the last inspection. I also held a telephone conversation with a senior representative of the local authority and evaluated the school's raising achievement plan.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection in February you and two Key Stage 2 teachers have decided to leave the school. At the time of this visit no replacements had been appointed and no provision had been made to identify a special educational needs coordinator for September.

Main findings

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas that require improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection. This is because they have focused too much on organisational challenges and not sufficiently on ensuring that pupils make good progress in lessons every day. Governors have not been holding the headteacher sufficiently to account for pupil's progress and the headteacher has not demonstrated high enough expectations of teachers working in the school. The school should take immediate action to:

- appoint senior leadership to the school for September, or sooner, if possible
- ensure there is a teacher with responsibility for supporting pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and that these pupils make good progress in lessons
- ensure all teachers accurately assess pupils and use the tracking system to monitor the progress pupils make
- ensure that the headteacher monitors pupil progress on a weekly basis
- ensure governors are robust in holding the school to account for the progress pupils make and the implementation of the raising achievement plan.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. I will contact the school during the autumn term to enquire as to the progress being made overall and, given the appointment of a new headteacher, make at least one further visit to the school before its next inspection.

It is recommended that senior leaders and governors attend the school improvement seminar organised by Ofsted.

External support

The local authority is providing a good level of support to the school. Teachers value the local authority and report that interventions and support are bespoke and closely match the areas for improvement identified in the inspection. The local authority has judged the school's progress to be less than expected and the findings of this visit agree with this judgement. It will be important to maintain current levels of intervention to support new staff starting in September.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Gloucestershire, and the Diocese of Gloucester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector