

Serco Inspections  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 618 8524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T:** 012 1679 9163  
**Direct email:** lewis.mackie1@serco.com

24 May 2013

Mrs Linda Hack  
Churchfield CofE (C) Primary School  
Sandy Lane  
Rugeley  
WS15 2LB

Dear Mrs Hack

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Churchfield CofE (C) Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 24 May 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, members of the senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

#### **Context**

Since the school was inspected, there have not been any new members of staff. However, the headteacher is leaving the school at the end of the summer term 2013. The governors are in the process of appointing a new headteacher.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

The school action plan provides a sound foundation for improvement. The priorities for development are aligned to those identified in the inspection report and actions are relevant, clear and specific. However, sometimes it is not clear enough about what success will look like. This could make it more difficult for the school to measure the progress it is making in the coming months. In addition, the timescale only covers the first term. It is important that actions are spread across a longer timeframe so that the school is not overburdened at any one time and to guarantee that challenging targets can be achieved.

The senior leadership team is committed to improving the outcomes for pupils through ensuring that all teaching is at least good. They have implemented a programme of professional development for teaching staff and are monitoring regularly to evaluate the impact of the training on the quality of teaching. This is helping to raise awareness of the characteristics of good teaching and learning, and is providing a range of strategies to improve teaching. However, at the moment, support is not closely related to the needs of individual members of staff. As a result, staff may not receive the tailored support needed to move their teaching to good or better. The proportion of pupils expected to achieve a Level 4 or above at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2013 shows a sharp rise from 2012. If achieved, it demonstrates good progress in raising standards, particularly in mathematics.

Members of the governing body have begun to improve the way they gather information about the quality of the school's work. This is helping them to provide greater challenge and support. Governors are in the process of commissioning an external review of governance to start in the autumn term. They are also planning further training to ensure that all members of the governing body are clear about their roles and responsibilities.

The local authority provides good support. They have identified a Local Leader in Education to work with the school and are carrying out regular reviews to evaluate the quality of teaching. A core group, chaired by a senior member of the local authority and including the headteacher and Chair of Governors, meets on a termly basis to monitor progress and evaluate the impact of the actions taken. With the resignation of the current headteacher, it will be important for the local authority to continue to provide the support needed to ensure that leadership and management in the school continues to improve.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Staffordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Susan Barkway  
**Additional Inspector**