

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

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

**Direct T** 01695 566855  
**Direct F** 01695 729320  
**Direct email:** [gail.hill@cfbt.com](mailto:gail.hill@cfbt.com)



23 May 2013

Mr Adam Laskey  
Executive Headteacher  
East Crompton St James CE Primary School  
St James Street  
Shaw  
Oldham  
Lancashire  
OL2 7TD

Dear Mr Laskey

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of East Crompton St James CE Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 22 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 my visit and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

This visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in February 2013.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection I held meetings with you, the deputy headteacher and members of the interim executive board. I also met with a group of teachers, including the teacher who has responsibility for Key Stage 1, the literacy coordinator and the mathematics coordinator. I also had a meeting with the special educational needs coordinator.

You and the deputy headteacher took me on a tour of the school and I was given the opportunity to see some pupils involved in small group activities, for example to improve their writing. I also evaluated the combined local authority action plan and school development plan, written in response to the findings of the previous inspection.

### **Context**

The headteacher and another member of staff who were in post at the time of the previous inspection have retired. You have been appointed as the executive headteacher and have forged an effective partnership with your own school to drive forward improvements.

An interim executive board have recently taken over the role of the school's governing body. To support developments they have employed two external consultants. One to help staff

further improve their teaching of literacy and the second to help teachers make the best use of information technology in the classroom. They have plans to employ a third consultant to help with improvements in numeracy.

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

Your drive and determination have united the staff behind your vision of high standards for all. You and your colleagues recognise that the findings of the previous inspection provide a firm foundation on which to build a better school. As a team you are unwavering in your resolve to do this, and quickly.

Senior leaders have taken decisive steps to improve the quality of teaching and learning. You and one of your headteacher colleagues have jointly observed every member of staff teach and established clear criteria about what constitutes at least good learning in the classroom. You have identified those teachers who require additional support to improve their practice and put in place systems to help them get better. Senior leaders have quickly established a culture where teachers observe each other's practice so that they can learn from their colleagues about what works best in the classroom.

There are early indications that the two consultants employed by the interim executive board are already having a positive impact. Children's writing in the early years and foundation stage is improving as a result of the effective work of the literacy consultant. In addition, more teachers are now using modern technology effectively in lessons.

Pupils' progress is now checked rigorously and with greater regularity. Teachers are able to identify quickly those pupils who are underachieving and provide extra help to get them back on track.

Concerns raised at the previous inspection about safeguarding have been addressed. An up-to-date safeguarding policy is now in place and meets statutory requirements. All staff have received child-protection training and risk assessments are complete. However, the current system for recording incidents related to pupils' well-being and safety relies too heavily on senior leaders; class teachers and other staff are not routinely involved.

The interim executive board is a knowledgeable group of individuals and a number of members have many years' experience in education. They are aware of the actions needed to bring about improvements to the school and have in place effective plans to do so.

The local authority's action plan and the school's development plan have been combined into one document. It provides a coherent and well-thought-out set of approaches for improving the school. However, the mechanisms by which the interim executive board are able to measure the progress being made towards achieving each of the targets in the plan could be sharper.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The combined local authority statement of action and the school's development 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 Director of Education for the Church of England Diocese of Manchester, the Chair of the Interim Executive Board and the Executive Director for People, Communities and Society for Oldham.

Yours sincerely

Charles Lowry  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**