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26 June 2013

Jill Hibbs
Headteacher
St Barnabas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Drove Lane
Market Lavington
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 4NT

Dear Mrs Hibbs

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to St Barnabas Church of England School, Market Lavington

Following my visit to your school on 21 June 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 April 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you to discuss the context of the school and your work since the inspection. You showed me around your school and explained your recent and planned developments. I also met with five members of the governing body and a representative from the local authority. During my visit, I also evaluated reports from the local authority, your 'purple ladder' data analysis and the school improvement plan.

Context

Since the inspection two teachers have decided to leave the school. One new teacher has been appointed for September 2013 and the appointment process for the other vacancy is underway.

Main findings

Senior leaders and the governing body are working together to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement, identified at the recent section 5 inspection. I am pleased to report that you have taken decisive action to improve the quality of teaching and that you have been well supported in this by both the governing body and local authority. The governing body has undertaken a skills audit and employed a consultant to identify their strengths and areas for development. Following my visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- clarify the school's improvement agenda, so that all actions focus on one of the three key areas for development; induction, quality of teaching and subject leadership of mathematics
- set achievement targets as outcome measures and use them to evaluate the success of actions
- develop a 'bespoke' approach to improving the quality of teaching, so that each teacher understands their strengths and the aspects of their teaching that they need to improve
- ensure that members of the governing body are able to evaluate the success of actions taken by the school every time they meet.

External support

The school is making good use of the support provide by the local authority. Teaching and learning consultants are being used well to provide a long-term approach to developing the quality and consistency of teaching. The school's participation in the local authority's improving schools programme provides both challenge and support for senior leaders.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection and I will return to the school within the next twelve months to evaluate the school's progress toward becoming good.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Wiltshire.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector