

Tribal
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 311 5359
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Email: christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com



17 July 2013

Mr Matt Stone
Headteacher
Bathford CofE VC Primary School
Dovers Park
Bathford
Bath
BA1 7UB

Dear Mr Stone

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Bathford CofE VC Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 17 July 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you and your deputy headteacher, a group of three members of the governing body and a representative from the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. A further member of your senior team was able to join us at lunchtime.

You gave me a tour of the school during which we were able to look at some work in pupils' books. I evaluated the school action plan and examined some of the evidence you had prepared to support my visit. I looked at records of lesson observations, new marking guidance, visit reports from the local authority, recent data on pupil progress and minutes of a meeting held with parents.

Main findings

There is clear evidence that you have acted quickly to tackle some areas identified by the recent section 5 inspection. Planning, marking and differentiation have all

become more consistent across the school and this is beginning to impact on teaching. Your use of focused lesson observations is an effective monitoring tool to judge the impact of these specific developments. Teacher assessment information indicates that pupil achievement has improved since the inspection.

The governing body have continued to develop their ability to closely monitor the progress of pupils across the school. They have high expectations of themselves and are ambitious for the pupils.

Therefore, I am pleased to report that 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.

Following my visit to the school, I recommended that further action is taken to:

- establish clear monitoring and evaluation systems that ensure and maintain agreed practice in teaching and learning
- develop a more diagnostic approach to lesson observation that provides teachers with clear next steps
- ensure that senior leaders and the governing body have straightforward ways of judging improvements in the quality of teaching over time
- sharpen pupil progress meetings so that they set high expectations for pupil progress that underpin the school's drive to raise achievement.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection. I will return to the school within the next twelve months to evaluate the school's progress toward becoming good.

External support

The school is making good use of the support provide by the local authority. A local leader of education is in place to support both teachers and senior leaders to provide a long-term approach to developing the quality and consistency of teaching. The impact of this work is being closely monitored by the local authority who are also providing additional training for the governing body.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Bath and North East Somerset.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector