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8 July 2013

Miss Alison Fishlock  
Headteacher  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, Wincanton  
Tout Hill  
Wincanton  
Somerset  
BA9 9DH

Dear Miss Fishlock

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, Wincanton**

Following my visit to your school on 8 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, three members of the governing body, a representative from the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also met with a local leader of education who is currently supporting the school.

I toured the school with you and was able to meet some teachers and see some pupils at work. We jointly evaluated a sample of writing books and I looked at your most recent monitoring of teaching. I evaluated the school improvement plan and looked at the governing body's improvement plan and minutes of their recent meeting with parents.

**Context**

Since the inspection the assistant headteacher and one part time teacher have decided to leave the school. The appointment of two teachers needed for next term is well under way.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders and members of the governing body are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The governing body has held a range of meetings to review and evaluate their current practice and met with parents to discuss the inspection report findings. The headteacher is clear about the improvement agenda and is well supported by the local leader of education. However, the lack of senior leadership in the school is limiting the impact of improvement work in classrooms. For example, the scrutiny of books carried out during the visit demonstrated that not all teachers are following the new guidance on quantity of writing and quality of marking.

The school should take further action to:

- move quickly to appoint temporary senior leadership to the school to support the headteacher in delivering the improvement work required in classrooms
- prioritise the training requirements of the governing body to ensure that they are able to measure the school's progress improving the quality of teaching
- strengthen the monitoring of the quality of teaching so that senior leaders can quickly identify teachers that require additional support to implement agreed strategies
- ensure that senior leaders are able to provide diagnostic feedback to teachers following monitoring activities, thereby supporting them to improve.

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 next term to support the headteacher and governing body with their monitoring and evaluation of the quality of teaching.

## **External support**

The school is making effective use of the limited support on offer from the local authority. The local authority provides the headteacher with support from a local leader of education and there is a clear plan for the actions and outcomes of this work. The local authority monitors the progress of the school regularly through their evaluation of the impact of the local leader of education.

The school must now seek support from the local authority to identify a temporary assistant headteacher and clarify arrangements for the review of the governing body as recommended in the inspection report.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Somerset and the Director of the Catholic Diocese of Clifton.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns

**Her Majesty's Inspector**