

Tribal  
1-4 Portland Square  
Bristol  
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 0117 311 5323  
**Direct F** 0117 315 0430  
**Email:** suzy.smith@tribalgroup.com

1 October 2013

Mrs Emily Mellor  
Headteacher  
Lympstone Church of England Primary School  
School Hill  
Lympstone  
Exmouth  
EX8 5JY

Dear Mrs Mellor

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Lympstone Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 30 September 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 June 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure that the plans for improving the teaching of mathematics in order to promote faster progress in pupils' learning are strengthened as a priority in the school's development planning
- implement the recently agreed marking policy so that it will support individual pupil's learning and rigorously monitor its effectiveness
- ensure staff and governors are familiar with the findings of the Ofsted survey reports *Getting to good – How headteachers achieve success* and *School governance – Learning from the best* and how they can be

used to support the school's work in improving teaching and raising standards.

## **Evidence**

During the visit meetings were held with you and the deputy headteacher, the subject leaders for English and mathematics, the Chair of the Governing Body, a parent governor and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan and local authority Targeted Intervention and Support Programme (TISP) were evaluated. A range of other planning and monitoring documents were reviewed in our discussions which included the analysis of the progress made by year groups in reading, writing and mathematics and the records of your monitoring of teaching.

## **Context**

You took up your post as headteacher in September but had been involved in a 'hand-over' period with your predecessor which enabled careful planning for the new school year. As a result of this and teachers leaving the school, you have worked with staff and governors to restructure senior positions so that there is now an established deputy headteacher post, appointed two experienced teachers and reviewed the leadership of English and mathematics. In addition, and following on from the judgements in the inspection report, the Key Stage 2 classes have been relocated in the main building. Currently there is significant building work being undertaken at the school which has meant that some classes are in temporary accommodation. When the work is completed in November all classes will be in settled bases.

## **Main findings**

The school's development plan is clearly linked to the local authority's TISP document. There are appropriate success criteria and detailed information on funding and named staff and governors who are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress made against the objectives set. In some cases, targets for improvement activities are very aspirational and care needs to be taken as the monitoring process gathers evidence of impact that targets are challenging but realistic. Additionally, and taken overall, the work on improving mathematics has not begun as strongly as in English, although there are clear plans in place for later this term. Given the recommendations in the last report regarding the teaching of mathematics and the weaker outcomes for the subject, improvement work must remain a strong priority in all development and improvement planning.

You and the deputy headteacher have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in teaching at the school and have used the report from the last

inspection to make appropriate plans for improvement. This has focused rightly on developing the systems for tracking the progress made by pupils across all classes. Building on this, plans are in place to introduce regular pupil progress meetings to hold teachers to account for the achievement of the pupils in their classes. In addition, you are developing systems for intervention for pupils where underachievement is identified. You have also begun an appropriate cycle of formal teaching observations.

A marking policy has recently been introduced in consultation with staff and this now needs to become established and monitored robustly to ensure impact on the continuity of teaching and learning across the school.

There has been an effective start on the development of subject leadership in English and mathematics. The roles for teachers taking these subject responsibilities are clear and the English subject leaders have undertaken visits to other schools to observe effective teaching and discuss the expectations of leadership roles. Together with this the leaders of both subjects are currently producing plans for further development linked to improving achievement. In mathematics there are plans to work with an external consultant on developing a calculation policy to reinforce continuity across the school. However, at the time of the monitoring inspection, the implementation of leadership activities is more advanced in English than mathematics.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

The monitoring procedures of the local authority were not robust enough to intervene in the decline in the school's performance from its previously good inspection judgement. When judged to require improvement at the last inspection in June 2013, the local authority support for the school and for you as a new headteacher has been focused and appropriate.

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

Yours sincerely

Robert Pyner  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**