

Serco Inspections

20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

**T** 0300 123 1231

Text Phone: 0161 6188524

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** : 0121 6799162

**Direct email:** siobhan.garrattely@serco.com

10 October 2013

Julie Stanton

Headteacher

St Giles Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Starkholmes Road

Matlock

Derbyshire

DE4 3DD

Dear Miss Stanton

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of St Giles Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 9 October 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 the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in June 2013.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, I met with you and the deputy headteacher, two members of the governing body, and two representatives from the local authority. I visited all classrooms, accompanied by you. I evaluated the local authority's statement for action and school documents that showed the impact of improvements you and the team have made thus far.

### **Context**

Since the inspection, one teacher has retired. One new class teacher and teaching assistant joined the school in September 2013. Two new parent governors have been elected onto the governing body.

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

You have quickly brushed away the disappointment of the inspection judgements and have galvanised the commitment of all staff. The local authority is working intensely with senior leaders to bring stability and direction to the school.

You are giving due prominence to improving teaching and learning. The local authority is co-ordinating a staff training programme and all staff have responded positively to the support provided thus far. This support is being backed up with more systematic lesson monitoring and you have clear evidence that the quality of some lessons is showing improvement. New systems introduced since the previous inspection to improve teachers' planning are being monitored regularly by senior leaders. This is ensuring greater consistency across the school and in different subjects. Changes to the teaching of phonics (letters and the sounds they represent) at Key Stage 2 are being implemented swiftly. It is too early to judge the impact of these at the present time. All these positive changes are at an early stage and there remains much more to do.

Governors are committed to driving up standards. They are beginning to make changes to the way they organise their work but the pace of change is not rapid enough. An external review of governance, as recommended in the inspection report, is not due to take place until next month despite the strenuous efforts of the Chair to secure this at an earlier date. This is hindering improvements to the governing body and delaying essential training to help them improve their effectiveness. I discussed this with representatives of the local authority and they are committed to pursuing this further as a matter of urgency. School leaders and governors are determined to improve their working relationships with each other. They recognise that the current position is not helpful and does not serve the best interests of pupils.

Safeguarding concerns expressed in the inspection report have been resolved.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement 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 Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**