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16 October 2013

Mrs C Meakins  
Headteacher  
St Andrew's Church of England Infants School  
Winchelsea Road  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN22 7PP

Dear Mrs Meakins

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Andrew's Church of England Infants School**

Following my visit to your school on 15 October 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 July 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 challenging targets for pupils' progress, including those pupils who are disabled or have special educational needs are included in the school improvement plan.
- Agree a minimum standard for the learning environment in every classroom so that all rooms are well organised and displays support pupils' learning effectively.
- Collate the information gathered from the monitoring of teaching and learning to provide a full overview of each teacher's strengths and areas for development and use this to plan tailored support for each teacher.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher, the Year 1 leader, and three members of the governing body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also spoke to a representative of the local authority by phone. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

## **Main findings**

School leaders have responded positively to the findings of the recent section 5 inspection. They know what needs to be done to improve and are making very good use of support from a partner school and advice from the local authority. Following the inspection, senior staff acted quickly to draw up a school improvement plan that has clear objectives. They added measurable short-term and long-term targets for pupils' attainment in response to recent feedback from the local authority adviser. However, the updated plan still lacks targets for pupils' progress and for the achievement of specific groups. This is particularly important given that disabled pupils and those with special educational needs were identified at the time of the recent inspection as a group that do not make enough progress over time.

Senior leaders have already taken action to implement aspects of the plan. For example, a staff training day at the start of this term set out higher expectations for pupils' progress and the school timetable has been revised to allow more learning time for pupils.

All staff in the school now understand the link between good teaching and pupils' progress over time. The headteacher has increased the frequency of checks made on the quality of teaching and learning and has modified the way that these are recorded. However, it is still difficult for school leaders to assess each teachers' strengths and areas for development across all areas of their work because this information is not drawn together and presented in a clear, unambiguous way.

The governing body has continued to work closely with school leaders, providing appropriate challenge and support. To ensure that the school improves as quickly as possible, a new 'standards working group' has been set up. This will monitor the impact of the school's action plan.

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 local authority has enhanced its support for the school since the inspection. It has also brokered support from an outstanding infant school in West Sussex. This 'partnership' work has been welcomed by the staff at St Andrew's and there are already signs that visits to see 'outstanding' teachers at work are having a positive

impact. The partner school is also helping senior staff to review the way that the curriculum is organised so that learning across all subjects is relevant and exciting for pupils.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for East Sussex and the Director of Education for the Diocese of Chichester.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Knowles  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**