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13 November 2013

Mr Keith Turmeau
Headteacher
St Antony's Catholic College
Bradfield Road
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Manchester
M41 9PD

Dear Mr Turmeau

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of St Antony's Catholic College

Following my visit to your school on 12 November 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 was judged to have serious weaknesses in July 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the executive headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the Chair and vice-chair of the Governing Body, a representative of Trafford local authority and a representative of the Catholic Diocese of Salford. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection in July 2013, the headteacher has been appointed to the headship of another school and will leave at the end of December 2013. In October 2013, the governing body of St Antony's Catholic College appointed the headteacher of Loreto Grammar School as executive headteacher with immediate effect. The deputy headteacher of Loreto Grammar School was at the same time appointed to the role of associate headteacher and will take the role of headteacher from January to August 2014. The governing body intend to appoint a permanent headteacher as from September 2014. The senior leadership team has been restructured.

The quality of leadership in and management of the school

Following the inspection in July 2013, school leaders and governors moved rapidly to address the weaknesses identified. A core group of governors, senior leaders, local authority representatives and the diocese has been formed to monitor the progress of the school. Senior leaders have written an action plan which covers all the areas for improvement. The actions are relevant, clear and specific, and the persons responsible are clearly identified. The local authority's statement of action has been written in parallel with the school improvement plan. While both plans are of suitable quality to bring about the improvement that is needed, they would benefit from having more interim targets. These would enable the governing body and senior leaders to be sure that enough progress is being made.

The school has communicated with parents by letter and social media, and plans a meeting with parents in December 2013 to explain the improvement plan further.

Action on a range of issues is already complete. The senior leadership team has been restructured, with clear accountability for the leadership of teaching and learning. The governing body has been strengthened with the appointment of three new governors. In other areas a good start has been made. School leaders, assisted by staff from Loreto Grammar School, have run training sessions on high quality teaching and a teaching review has provided insight into strengths and areas for development.

The governing body has completed an externally led review of its performance and has an action plan in place for further improvement. Currently, the understanding of its members about the pupil premium and the management of staff performance has not increased since the inspection. However, the action plan for governance makes clear how the skills and understanding of members of the governing body will be developed.

Trafford local authority and the Diocese of Salford have worked together well to ensure the progress of the school. They have cooperated on the appointment of the executive headteacher and associate headteacher. They have brokered support from Loreto Grammar School and this has already shown itself to be a productive link. The diocese has facilitated the appointment of new members of the governing body.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Corporate Director Children, Families and Well-Being for Trafford local authority. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Robert Barbour

Additional Inspector