

Tribal
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 311 5307
Email: rachel.evans@tribalgroup.com



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Mr Robin Jones
Headteacher
St Budeaux Foundation CofE (Aided) Junior School
Priestley Avenue
Plymouth
PL5 2DW

Dear Mr Jones

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Budeaux Foundation CofE (Aided) Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 31 January 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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 November 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not focused sharply enough on bringing about rapid improvement. The school's leaders should take immediate action to ensure that:

- targets for pupils' progress and the standards they achieve are used to measure the impact of teaching on learning and the effectiveness of the school improvement plan
- they have an accurate understanding about the aspects of teaching that need to improve
- the governing body effectively monitors the impact of the school improvement plan on the learning pupils make.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. You gave me a tour of the school so that I could see the pupils and staff at work. I met with the assistant headteacher and considered a range of documentation, including reports from external advisors, records of lesson observations and performance management documents. I also reviewed some reports arising from work scrutinies and briefings and data relating to pupils' academic progress. The school improvement plan was also evaluated.

Main findings

Governors and senior leaders have not given sufficient consideration to the aspects of the school that the inspection found to require improvement. As a result, the improvement activities currently being undertaken by the school have not been altered or amended to reflect the findings of the inspection. Consequently, the school is not addressing the issues identified in the inspection.

Plans for school improvement do not identify how activities will impact on pupils' learning or how governors can monitor improvements in the quality of teaching and the progress pupils achieve. Leadership roles are not matched to actions in the improvement plan. As a result, it is not clear who is responsible for delivering each area of work.

The monitoring of teaching does not provide an accurate overview of the strengths in practice and the areas of teachers' work that could improve. Although the school has increased its focus on monitoring pupils' academic progress, the systems used are not sufficiently robust and do not provide an accurate picture of current levels of progress. Consequently, governors are not able to hold the school leaders sufficiently to account for the quality of teaching or the progress pupils make. At present the governing body is not being provided with the level of information they need to carry out their role successfully.

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

I have serious concerns about the insufficiency of the actions being taken by the school. I will return to the school to discuss these with the full governing body as soon as possible.

External support

The recent inspection reported that the 'light-touch support' provided by the local authority since the previous inspection has not sufficiently accelerated the rate of

school improvement. The support provided by the local authority remains insufficient to enable the school to become good by the time of the next inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Plymouth.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector