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Mrs Rosanne Eckersley
Headteacher
Christ The King RC Primary School
Holly Avenue
Worsley
Manchester
M28 3DW

Dear Mrs Eckersley

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Christ The King RC Primary School, Salford

Following my visit to your school on 4 February 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on 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 November 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, deputy headteacher, subject leads for literacy and numeracy, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Documents summarising other actions taken since the section 5 inspection were also scrutinised. A learning walk of the school was undertaken with two year 6 students and the headteacher and deputy headteacher.

Context

There have been no significant changes to the school's context since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

Tracking and monitoring systems have been sharpened so as to enable speedier interventions to promote better pupil progress. Staff responsible for Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils have had extensive coaching programmes with a strong emphasis on developing literacy and numeracy across the curriculum and on the ways and means to better accelerate and embed learning. Programmes and approaches to maximise pupils reaching levels 5 and 6 are now prioritised. A stronger focus on how pupils learn at home has been developed.

Meetings with groups of parents have been held to explore how learning can be enhanced in the home environment and some of these have been hosted by pupils. Pupils are developing good oracy and presentational skills at the school. I observed one group of pupils giving a highly competent and confident PowerPoint presentation to a group of parents on the safeguarding of children. The headteacher and her senior staff acknowledge that the palpable energy, commitment and enjoyment that these pupils demonstrate for learning needs to be harnessed more effectively so that the school rapidly moves to good and beyond. To achieve this imaginative ideas are now being promoted to enable enhanced literacy work and a problem-solving approach to numeracy across all aspects of the curriculum. A culture more focused on personalised learning is emerging and now requires further acceleration. School tracking and monitoring systems indicate that pupils are making better progress in reading, writing and mathematics. Performance management systems and procedures have been reviewed and sharpened so that they have a stronger link to the quality of teaching and learning and pupils' achievement.

Governors are effectively monitoring the inspection improvement plan and its impact on the quality of teaching and learning and pupil achievement. Through training, governors have improved their understanding of achievement data and ways to judge the quality of teaching and learning: in doing so they are increasingly holding the headteacher and senior managers to account for school performance.

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 is committed to supporting the school in aiding its improvement planning and practice. Focused staff training has been developed in co-operation with the local authority. Links have been established with best practice schools. A well-considered programme of parental engagement is promoting a culture of higher aspirations and improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Patrick Geraghty

Her Majesty's Inspector