

Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
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 679 9146  
Direct email: [clare.benson@serco.com](mailto:clare.benson@serco.com)



5 March 2014

Miss Nikki Worsley  
Headteacher  
Great Gaddesden Church of England Primary School  
Church Meadow  
Great Gaddesden  
Hemel Hempstead  
HP1 3BT

Dear Miss Worsley

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Great Gaddesden Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 4 March 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 taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure teaching in all classes overtime is at least good
- provide even greater opportunities for pupils to write in other subjects such as history and science.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the literacy coordinator, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The action plan was evaluated. I looked at pupils' progress data and reviewed the latest monitoring reports that check the performance of the school.

I also had a tour of the school to observe teachers working with pupils in all classes and looked at the pupils' writing in their books.

## **Main findings**

Through your drive and determination you have quickly tackled the weaknesses identified in the last inspection. The action plan provides you, staff and governors with an effective structure to accelerate the rate of improvement. It specifically identifies who will lead each action, when each should be completed and who will monitor the impact of these actions. The inclusion of targets linked to pupil achievement ensures weaker performance in teaching and learning is highlighted and success is fully recognised. Your inclusion of impact statements for each key priority provides staff and governors with a comprehensive but easy to read overview of progress made to date.

Regular monitoring of lessons highlights what teachers do well and where they can make improvements. Targets are set for them to work towards and as a result, the overall quality of teaching is steadily improving. These improvements are yet to be fully reflected in consistently good teaching overtime for all pupils in the school.

The subject coordinator for English has responded well to the task of improving pupil achievement in writing. Regular opportunities for pupils to write at length in literacy lessons combined with improvements in the quality of marking have led to better pupil achievement. Such high quality marking clearly identifies what pupils have done well and what they need to do next to improve. This is accelerating pupils' progress in writing across the school.

With the support of the local authority the weaknesses in provision for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs have been tackled quickly. Analysis of progress data confirms that most of these pupils are now making better progress. Other members of staff are keen to work as a team to tackle the key priorities for improvement. You have been quick to implement a comprehensive training programme to ensure that they play a greater role in the improvement of teaching and learning in their subjects. However, the result of this work is yet to be reflected in a sustained trend of improvement over time.

My discussion with several governors confirms that they have a good understanding of what the school needs to do next to address the issues from the last inspection. They are well organised and actively involved in monitoring the impact of school initiatives and the performance of leaders and staff. They demonstrate good awareness of pupil progress data and how it can be used to monitor school effectiveness and staff performance. Their use of pupil surveys to gain insight into what has been achieved and what needs to be improved further, such as in writing and science, is a strength.

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**

Good use of local authority advisors and improvement officers has been made by you and the governors to support the quest for further improvement. Visits by governors to other local schools have assisted the governing body in the identification of what needs to be done next to improve provision for information technology.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Hertfordshire and the Diocese of St Albans.

Yours sincerely

Philip Mann  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**