

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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Mrs Myra Neves
St Ignatius RC Primary School
Green Street
Sunbury-on-Thames
TW16 6QG

Dear Mrs Neves

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Ignatius RC 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 that the rate of improvement gathers more momentum.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with you, other senior and middle leaders, and members of the governing body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also held a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement action plan was evaluated. I undertook some brief lesson observations across all age groups and looked at data about pupils' progress.

Main findings

After a slow start you and your senior team are now putting in place more robust procedures to monitor and check the quality of teaching and the rate at which pupils' are making progress.

There is a growing awareness of the importance of ensuring that the progress of all groups of pupils are monitored carefully, including those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and those who are more able. Teachers have a better understanding of the progress their pupils are making. This is leading to a better and more focussed curriculum and more appropriate planning to meet the needs of all pupils. There is still a way to go to ensure that good teaching is embedded across the school.

You have started to take appropriate steps to address the weaknesses in pupils' writing and there are now more regular opportunities for pupils to take part in problem solving activities in mathematics. Pupils' individual learning targets are clearer and pupils' have more information about how to improve their work.

The school improvement plan is suitably linked to the areas of improvement identified in the recent inspection. The senior team is successfully increasing its skills so that it can check more thoroughly and rigorously how well the school is doing. This includes carrying out a wider range of lesson observations, systematically scrutinising pupils' work and analysing assessment information. This work needs to be even more rigorous. I am not yet convinced that the information gathered from this monitoring is leading to suitably focussed improvement targets which are checked within short timescales in order to increase the pace of change.

Governors have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses and continue to increase their knowledge of the school's work. They are increasingly requesting more detailed information about how well pupils are doing and the quality of teaching. This is helping to improve the rigour of their work.

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 started to put in place a range of appropriate activities to support teachers and leaders in the drive for improvement. It is too soon to measure the impact of this work.

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

Yours sincerely

Daniel Towl
Her Majesty's Inspector