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13 June 2014

Jill Hibbs
Headteacher
St Barnabas Church of England (VC) School, Market Lavington
Drove Lane
Market Lavington
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Wiltshire
SN10 4NT

Dear Mrs Hibbs

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Barnabas Church of England School, Market Lavington

Following my visit to your school on 11 June 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in April 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 provides opportunities for pupils to make more than expected progress
- make sure governors rigorously evaluate all the available evidence when judging the school's effectiveness.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last

inspection. I visited every classroom and spoke to pupils about their work, observed teaching and examined work in books. I evaluated reports from local authority advisers, governor documentation and records of monitoring activities. The school improvement plan was also evaluated.

Context

Since my last visit in June 2013, one teacher has left the school and a permanent replacement has been appointed to start in September 2014. The re-organisation of the school from four to three classes is resulting in the departure of another teacher at the end of the summer term.

Main findings

I am pleased to report that, since my last visit, the school has maintained the focus on improving the quality of teaching. As a result, pupil achievement has continued to improve. Pupils are now making better progress in mathematics than before. This is bringing Key Stage 2 standards in mathematics into line with those in reading and writing. Standards in Key Stage 1 are rising in reading, writing and mathematics.

The governors have continued to develop their practice in order to better support the school's improvement. However, key evidence is not being fully considered by the governing body when making judgements about the school's effectiveness.

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 support provided by the local authority has been used well by the school. This support focused on improving the quality of teaching. For example, joint observations of teaching to support school leaders in the identification of areas for improvement. This support has contributed to the progress of the school. The introduction of coaching support for the headteacher from an experienced colleague is proving to be very effective.

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

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector