

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 5359
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Email: christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com

13 June 2014

Matt Stone
Headteacher
Bathford CofE VC Primary School
Dovers Park
Bathford
Bath
BA1 7UB

Dear Mr Stone

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Bathford CofE VC Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 12 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 May 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 all lesson observations evaluate the impact of teaching on learning and promote the consistency of high quality teaching
- develop the analysis and evaluation of the Early Years Foundation Stage data so that it is in line with procedures in the rest of the school.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you and your deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. Together, we carried out two learning walks. We

looked at the learning environment and pupils' work in Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, we observed teaching, spoke to pupils and looked at work in books. I looked at the school's attainment information, governing body minutes and records of lesson observations. I also evaluated the school's improvement plans.

Context

Since my last visit in July 2014, a new Chair of the Governing Body has been elected.

Main findings

I am pleased to report that the quality of teaching has continued to improve since my last visit. Consequently, pupils' attainment is higher than in previous years. The quality of teaching is more consistent across the school and, as a result, pupils are making better progress than before. A range of monitoring activities is being undertaken by senior leaders, which is leading to a more accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses. However, lesson observations do not focus sufficiently on the impact of teaching on learning. Consequently, teachers are not provided with clear areas for improvement that will promote learning and ensure that pupils make consistently good progress.

The governing body has been through a period of change but is developing a thorough approach to monitoring the effectiveness of the school. There is evidence that they are beginning to hold the school to account with increasing rigour.

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 school has continued to make good use of the light-touch support provided by the local authority. The school is developing collaborative links with a group of local good and outstanding schools to further develop leadership in the school.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Bath and North East Somerset and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector