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Pearl Day
Headteacher
St Peter's CofE Primary School
Bellamy Road
Mansfield
NG18 4LN

Dear Mrs Day

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Peter's CofE Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 12 September 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 June 2014. 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.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, other members of staff with leadership and management responsibilities, governors, a representative of the local authority, and a telephone discussion was held with a representative of the diocese. I toured the school, visiting all classrooms and holding discussions with pupils. I looked at a sample of the pupils' work and examples of the teachers' planning. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Documents relating to safeguarding were also checked.

Main findings

You have responded rapidly to the inspection. Collectively, the staff have revised the school's policy on marking and it is apparent from talking to the pupils and looking at their work that the teachers are putting the revisions into practice. The changes

mean that the pupils have more opportunities to correct, or improve their work, which means also that the level of challenge for them is increasing.

You are working on a revised approach to assessing the pupils' progress and attainment. Whilst much remains to be done, you have already made more-effective use of data to set targets for improving the pupils' achievement and to identify more precisely the learning needs of individual pupils. That has resulted in, for example, changes to the way in which pupils with special educational needs are being taught, because you have been able to identify which approaches are most effective.

The teachers are identifying themes and topics for the pupils' work that they intend will be more interesting to boys, in particular. The boys with whom I spoke were able to tell me about subjects and opportunities for learning that had interested them, including encouraging them to read.

More is now expected of the members of staff with leadership responsibilities. You have developed a programme for checking the work of the school and it sets out what is expected of those members of staff. The ones with whom I met have begun the work already and are providing guidance to their colleagues, which has, for example, helped to improve the quality of marking.

The review of governance was arranged quickly. At the time of my visit, however, the governors were uncertain about the implications of the review, because the written report is not scheduled to be available until late September. Consequently, they have been unable to make any particular changes to their work.

The governors have been involved in drawing up the school improvement plan and are aware of the important developments in school that have taken place so far. The plan focuses unequivocally on the areas for improvement from the inspection. It does not make sufficiently clear, however, how the school will evaluate its progress in carrying out the plan.

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 responded rapidly to the outcome of the inspection and, in consultation with the diocese, has helped the school to begin work quickly on the areas for improvement. A partnership has been arranged with another school, whose headteacher is a local leader of education. There have been several activities already involving staff from both schools, which have helped to bring about the improvements I have noted in this letter, and a detailed plan for further joint activity is due to be completed imminently.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire and the Director of Education for the Southwell and Nottingham diocese.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector