

CfBT Inspection Services  
Suite 22

West Lancs Investment Centre T 0300 123 1231

Maple View

Skelmersdale

WN8 9TG

Text Phone: 0161 618 8524

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 01695 566 937

**Direct F** 01695 729 320

**Direct email:** jsimmons@cfbt.com

9 September 2014

Mrs Andrea Towey  
Headteacher  
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School  
Henshall Avenue  
Latchford  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA4 1PY

Dear Mrs Towey

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 8 September 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

This was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in April 2014.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, I held meetings with you, four governors, representatives from the local authority and the diocese, the subject leader for English and six pupils, chosen at random, from Year 6. I evaluated the local authority's statement of action and the school improvement plan. I examined a number of documents, including reports to the governing body, records of visits by external consultants and a local Leader of Education, a number of revised policies and data on pupils' achievement and progress. In addition, I examined the single central record of staff employed at the school.

## **Context**

Since the most recent inspection, one member of staff has left. The deputy headteacher has assumed responsibility for mathematics and three new teachers have been appointed on temporary contracts for one year. An additional foundation governor has been appointed to the governing body.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

Since the inspection, you and your staff have made a number of changes to the school. You have revised the curriculum for mathematics and English, introduced new policies for marking, presentation and spelling, revised the approach to lesson-planning and altered the timetable to allow more time for pupils to reflect on their work and amend it. The pupils to whom I spoke were very appreciative of these changes, particularly the improved quality of the feedback they received. They also commented on how teachers now expected more of them, how behaviour had improved and how they were required to read more books at home and to learn spellings and multiplication tables.

Although positive changes have been made, they are not being coordinated clearly enough. Your intention is that, by March 2016, the school will no longer require special measures. However, you do not set this as a target in your action plan, which covers the period only until the end of this term. The aims and objectives in the plan are not always precise. For example, one aim is to ensure that Key Stage 2 results should be above the national floor targets, but you do not indicate by when, or by how much they should exceed those targets. You refer to improving the teaching of phonics so that more pupils reach age-related expectations but you do not indicate how many more will do so, or within what timescale. Similarly, you refer to a narrowing of the gap between the performance of pupils who are known to be entitled to free school meals and the rest of the school population but do not include any figures to show by how much the gap will narrow.

There is a considerable emphasis in the plan on checking to see what improvements have taken place, but limited information on how teachers will be helped to change their practice in order to bring about those improvements.

The action plan does not cover all the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report. For example, it makes no reference to the setting of individual targets to enable teachers to improve their performance and it is unclear how leaders will tackle weaknesses in teaching and learning or prevent such weaknesses developing in future.

A date has been set for the review of governance, but not for the review of the school's use of the pupil premium. There is no reference to the latter in the action plan and the governors whom I met had a limited understanding of what was required. They have been heavily reliant on advice and support from external sources and, although supportive of the school, they will need further training to gain the confidence and skills to hold you and your staff rigorously to account.

In examining the single central record, I identified a small number of minor amendments that need to be made. You agreed to take action on this immediately.

You are making appropriate use of the additional support provided directly, or arranged for you, by the local authority and the diocese. The local authority's statement of action includes clear goals, timescales and responsibilities for monitoring the impact of its work.

As a result of the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's action plan is not fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Executive Director Families & Wellbeing for Warrington and the Director of Education for the Diocese of Shrewsbury. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Aelwyn Pugh

**Her Majesty's Inspector**