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3 October 2014

Mrs Tracey Churchill  
Headteacher  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Derby  
Mill Hill Lane  
Derby  
DE23 6SB

Dear Mrs Churchill

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Derby**

Following my visit to your school on 2 October 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 senior leaders, three governors including the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. I toured the school and spoke with pupils informally about their work. I scrutinised pupils' books and examined other school documentation. I checked the single central record.

### **Context**

Since the last inspection, two newly qualified teachers have been appointed. A teacher has returned from maternity leave and is now part time. A further teacher has requested a part-time role and this has been granted. This teacher has become

lead-teacher for religious education. A teacher who has been absent on long-term sickness leave has resigned. A higher-level teaching assistant has gone on long-term sickness leave. A trainee teaching assistant is covering this absence. One member of the governing body has retired and a new parent governor has been elected.

## **Main findings**

You and the deputy headteacher have acted decisively to address the key areas for improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Your plans for improvement focus correctly on improving the quality of teaching and raising standards. You have identified tight timescales for improvement to take place, demonstrating your understanding of how urgently you need to act. However, some actions are not precise enough or linked to clear measurable outcomes for the governing body to hold you to account robustly.

You have developed a rigorous policy for checking the quality of teachers' work. Careful and timely checking of the impact of teaching means you are able to identify quickly where teachers are improving and where they need further support. As a result, teachers' individual training needs are met through coaching and wider development opportunities. Consequently, teachers are planning better to meet the needs of different groups of pupils and pupils' progress is accelerating.

The governing body is very committed to bring about the necessary improvements so that all pupils achieve well. As a result of the recent review, it has acted quickly to reorganise itself into different committees to make its work more efficient and effective. Governors have identified how best to understand and use pupils' data to challenge school leaders to improve their work. As a result, governors are growing in confidence to ask challenging and knowledgeable questions about how well pupils are doing in their learning.

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 provided effective support to the headteacher in checking the quality of teaching. It has identified coaching training and targeted development support for individual teachers. It has provided support to review pupils' progress data and to focus plans more closely to meet pupils' needs. It has worked alongside the headteacher to review the timetable for checking the impact of teachers' work so that it is more sharply focused on improving pupils' outcomes.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**