

Tribal
Kings Orchard,
One Queen Street,
Bristol, BS2 0HQ

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 311 5323
Direct email: suzy.smith@triblagroup.com

8 October 2014

Mr Peter McCabe
The Headteacher
St Simon of England Roman Catholic Primary School
Noakes Meadow
Ashford
Kent
TN23 4RB

Dear Mr McCabe

No formal designation monitoring inspection of St Simon of England Roman Catholic Primary School, Ashford

Following my visit to your academy on 7 October 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings.

This monitoring inspection was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for inspecting schools with no formal designation. The inspection was carried out because the Chief Inspector was concerned about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements at the academy's predecessor school.

Evidence

I scrutinised the single central record and other documents relating to safeguarding, including records of governing body meetings, behaviour logs and staff training records. I met with the headteacher, pupils, a recently appointed teacher, the governor with responsibility for safeguarding, a local authority school improvement advisor and the Area Safeguarding Adviser. I had lunch with pupils, observed playtime and lunchtimes and attended assembly.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the academy's safeguarding arrangements meet requirements.

Context

The predecessor school converted to become an academy in July 2014 and is a member of the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership. The academy has 209 pupils, which is slightly below the average size for primary schools. Two thirds of the pupils are White British. The next largest group is Polish, and most of these pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils entitled to additional government funding, known as the pupil premium, is below average. In this academy, the funding supports pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals and children who are looked after. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is also below average. Staffing is relatively stable. Two teachers joined the school at the start of this academic year.

Safeguarding of pupils

Leaders, including governors, make sure that arrangements for the recruitment of staff follow safeguarding guidelines and appropriate checks on staff and volunteers are carried out and carefully recorded. Three senior members of staff are trained designated child protection officers. Staff, including all support staff and several governors, have undertaken recent, appropriate and relevant training. Although training is all up to date, the information is not all in one place or easily accessed.

Systems for making sure that pupils are safe and behave well are consistent and understood by pupils and staff. There are thorough records of accidents, behaviour incidents and child protection issues. These are kept securely, with a good regard to confidentiality. Key policies are up to date and are being implemented. However, they are not always been published on the school's website or shared more widely. Similarly, there is little visible information in school to highlight safeguarding issues, for example by displaying the names of designated child protection officers.

Safeguarding is discussed regularly in staff meetings, forms part of the induction of new staff and is included in staff handbooks. The records of governors' meetings show that governors keep a close eye on safeguarding issues, particularly during their regular safeguarding committee meetings. They ensure that policies and safeguarding checks are appropriate and up to date.

External support

The academy follows local authority guidelines and uses external expertise for training and advice. Leaders access up-to-date information and resources and provide information for staff and parents on aspects of personal safety including e-safety. This is followed up in lessons and assemblies with pupils. Where serious concerns arise, appropriate action is taken, such as informing parents, the Local Authority Designated Officer and, when necessary, social services.

Priorities for further improvement

- ensure that up-to-date information about safeguarding is published on the academy's website and readily available in school
- record training more carefully so that needs can be more easily identified.

I am copying this letter to the Director of Children's Services for Kent, the Chief Executive of Kent Catholic Schools Partnership, the Secretary of State for Education, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Academies Advisers Unit at the Department for Education. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Sheena MacDonald
Her Majesty's Inspector