

## PROTECT-INSPECTION



Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
20 Colmore Circus  
Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 0121 679 9161  
Direct email: [ann.morris@serco.com](mailto:ann.morris@serco.com)

15 October 2014

Mrs Clare Robinson  
Headteacher  
St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School  
School Lane  
Haverhill  
Suffolk  
CB9 9DE

Dear Mrs Robinson

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School, Haverhill**

Following my visit to your school on 14 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 May 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, I held meetings with you and the deputy headteacher, with three other leaders and with two members of the governing body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also spoke to the national leader in education who has been working with you and a local authority adviser by phone. I evaluated the school improvement plan, analysed achievement information and scrutinised your monitoring and evaluation and pupils' mathematics work. We made visits to every class, looked at pupils' books and spoke to them about their learning.

## Context

Since the last inspection, three teachers have left the school. A new Key Stage 2 leader, who also leads mathematics, has been appointed along with two other teachers. New assessment and pastoral lead roles have been created and a new parent governor elected.

## Main findings

Working in close and effective partnership with the deputy headteacher you have seamlessly continued to rapidly drive improvement using the systems and strategies recognised as successful at the last inspection. As a result, standards have risen, pupils' behaviour in lessons is more focused and their work shows they are making much better progress as they move through the school. In a relatively short period of time, pupils' presentation of their work has been transformed and they benefit from much more consistent feedback and marking. Pupils explain proudly how the new strategies for monitoring their progress and ensuring their work is well presented have improved their learning.

Your plans for improvement include timely and purposeful actions and you continually evaluate the impact of the work of staff and the use of resources on developing the school. Staff speak highly of the changes you have made and acknowledge that, while your expectations are challenging, they feel well supported to make the required improvements.

A new curriculum plan is in place which is ensuring key skills in literacy and mathematics are taught systematically; teachers are planning so that pupils build carefully on previous learning. Leadership of English and mathematics, while recently established, is very strong. These leaders are evaluating the school's work in detail and providing very effective analysis, support and guidance for you and other colleagues which is driving improvement in the quality of teaching and how pupils learn very quickly.

Governors are delighted that their determination to make the right appointment to lead the school has been rewarded. They are involved in action planning and in monitoring so understand how and why investment in new resources is supporting improvement. Your analysis of the school's work gives them a more accurate, evidence-based understanding of how well the school is performing and they acknowledge staff morale has improved. Governors discuss confidently the improved standards reached in 2014 and know how well different groups of pupils are achieving.

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**

Since the last inspection, because of the improvements you are making, the local authority has categorised your school as light touch and consequently has not found it necessary to provide extra support. You have been very careful to identify and draw on the expertise necessary to make the required changes effectively. You are working with a national leader in education who both advises and challenges the progress you are making; his work has been a strong factor in ensuring you have not become complacent as improvement has been realised. Staff say they have learned much from the training you have organised and you have been selective about accessing the most relevant development opportunities offered by the local authority.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Suffolk and to the Director of Schools' Service for the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.

Yours sincerely

Prue Rayner  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**