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29 April 2015

Mrs Di Robinson
Headteacher
Richmond Church of England Primary School
Frances Road
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 4NF

Dear Mrs Robinson

Special measures monitoring inspection of Richmond Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Fiona Manuel, Her Majesty's Inspector, to your school on 28 April 2015, 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.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in January 2015.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leadership team. Inspectors also met with the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and an external consultant who is working with the school. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated. A sample of leaders' monitoring records, minutes of governors' meetings and external reviews and reports were reviewed.

Context

There have not been any changes to staffing since the section 5 inspection which judged the school to require special measures.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The school received a large amount of support prior to and following the section 5 inspection. The headteacher, with officers from the local authority, has developed an action plan based on the areas for improvement. Plans have yet to be shared fully with all staff, governors and parents. External reviews of pupil premium (additional government money) and governance have quickly taken place. A newly established 'governor focus group' is in place and steps are being taken to find out more about the impact of the school's work. As a result of recent checks, senior leaders and governors know that pupils are responding to 'Richmond Pride', a set of behavioural and presentation expectations introduced since the section 5 inspection. Pupils are more settled, compliant and taking greater care with their work. Efforts to establish consistency in teaching and planning lessons through a range of staff training and support activities have not had the impact expected.

Work to establish systems to track pupils' progress has begun. The school and local authority are using teachers' assessments from February 2015 to provide a reference point from which to determine whether pupils' attainment and progress in each class are moving in the right direction. However, analysis and use of this information are at a very early stage. Leaders are unclear what these data tell them about the gaps in the progress of key groups or individuals. Consequently, actions to date and priorities in school plans are not sufficiently focused on the classes and individuals that most need attention. Furthermore, leadership responsibilities are not adequately developed at senior level and throughout the school to provide insights into the strengths and weaknesses in pupils' performance in reading, writing and mathematics. Checks on the quality of teaching and its impact on pupils' learning are not fully established to remedy this situation and the school does not have specific literacy or numeracy plans to help drive improvement. This hampers the school in identifying how it can use the support from its partner, Poppleton Ousebank Primary, an outstanding school in York, to best effect. Local authority and school plans lack the necessary focus and specific actions to ensure that leadership at all levels improves rapidly.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is not 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 Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Services for North Yorkshire

and the Director of Education for the Bradford, Ripon and Leeds Church of England Diocese. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Gina White

Her Majesty's Inspector