

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



4 November 2020

Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher
Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Abbey Road
Swineshead
Lincolnshire
PE20 3EN

Dear Mrs Collett

Ofsted visit to Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Helen Williams, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 13 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and members of the senior leadership team, including the designated safeguarding lead and the special educational needs coordinator. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- The school opened to pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils attend full time. Children joining the school in the Reception Year attended part time for the first two weeks. They now attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is above that usually seen at this time of year.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects. You are dedicating more time to the teaching of English and mathematics in all year groups. You are planning to increase the amount of time allocated to the study of other subjects as the school year progresses.
- Teachers in Years 1 and 2 have checked pupils' phonic knowledge. Pupils who have fallen behind are receiving support to help them to catch up.
- In reading and mathematics, teachers are using the information from assessments to provide more support to pupils who need it.
- Teachers are focusing on promoting pupils' well-being. They have checked what pupils can remember across the wider curriculum. Teachers have used this information to adjust their plans, so that pupils can revisit knowledge that has been forgotten.
- Leaders have developed plans to deliver the curriculum remotely if needed. They have checked that families have the right technology to access online resources at home. You have made sure that remote education is closely matched to your usual curriculum.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the diocese of Lincoln, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Lincolnshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Damien Turrell
Her Majesty's Inspector