

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231  
[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)



22 October 2020

Julie Newby  
Headteacher  
South Cave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School  
South Cave  
Brough  
Hull  
HU15 2EP

Dear Mrs Newby

### **Ofsted visit to South Cave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Following my visit with Matthew Vellensworth, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 29 September 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 the two assistant headteachers. 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 all pupils on 8 September 2020. Children in Reception attended for half days only for the first week. All pupils are now expected to attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is very similar to this time last year. You put measures in place to support families who felt anxious about the return to school.
- Pupils are being taught the full range of subjects. Leaders have planned for pupils to be back on track with the planned curriculum by summer 2021.
- Staff have checked what pupils know and can do in reading, writing and mathematics. Where leaders have seen gaps in pupils' knowledge, they have put in place additional support to help pupils catch up. Plans are in place to carry out similar checks on pupils' knowledge in other subjects later this term.
- Phonics is a priority in Years 1, 2 and 3 because teachers have noticed gaps in what pupils know. In Years 1 and 2, additional time is dedicated to learning to read each day to help pupils catch up.
- Your assessments show that pupils' recall of mathematical facts and mental calculations has slowed. Staff are making sure that pupils practise their mental mathematical skills daily.
- Leaders have plans in place for teachers to remotely deliver the school curriculum, should they need to.

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 York, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for East Riding of Yorkshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Kate Rowley  
**Senior Her Majesty's Inspector**