

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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



24 November 2020

Gillian Elliott  
Headteacher  
Allithwaite Church of England Primary School  
Church Road  
Allithwaite  
Cumbria  
LA117RD

Dear Mrs Elliott

### **Ofsted visit to Allithwaite Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit with John Donald, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 21 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, the assistant headteacher 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 reopened to all pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is higher than it was at the same time last year.
- The curriculum content of some subjects has been adapted to allow more time for the teaching of English and mathematics. You have prioritised the teaching of personal, social, health and economic education to help pupils settle back into school. You plan to resume your usual curriculum by the 2021 summer term.
- You have carried out checks to establish pupils' new starting points in reading. Teachers have identified that younger pupils have lost some ground with their knowledge of phonics. Older pupils have forgotten some of their reading comprehension skills. You aim to refresh their memories with more regular practice.
- Checks in mathematics have shown that pupils are not as fluent as they were with solving mental arithmetic problems. Teachers are revisiting some aspects of mathematical learning from the previous year to help pupils catch up.
- In other subjects, such as science and art, teachers have checked the learning that pupils have missed or forgotten. You plan to adapt the curriculum, so that this learning can be included in future lessons and special thematic weeks.
- You described how pupils can access learning through the school website when working from home. You have shared information with parents, carers

and pupils on how to work safely online. Plans are in place to further develop remote learning.

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 Carlisle, and the director of children's services for Cumbria. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Garry White  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**