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Jan Thomson
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Thomson

Ofsted remote visit to Court-De-Wyck Church School

Following my remote visit with Sarah McGinnis, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 01 December 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 (coronavirus) lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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. We did not speak to pupils.

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 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:

- Approximately a third of pupils have had to self-isolate since September. Typically, pupils have isolated for between one and 14 days.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects. You have reduced the content of what is being taught in music. Initially, you focused on personal, social and health education to support pupils' well-being.
- You checked pupils' starting points when they returned in September. You found that most pupils remembered what they learned prior to lockdown. However, pupils need to catch up on the knowledge that was not taught during that period.
- You continue to prioritise reading. You have noticed that pupils did not make as much progress in their inference and deduction skills. You plan to deliver extra reading catch-up lessons.
- You have reviewed where mathematical content has been missed. For example, you decided not to teach fractions during lockdown. You have reordered your mathematics curriculum so that teachers can deliver the content that was missed.

- You have not narrowed the wider curriculum. However, you have looked for opportunities to combine parts of your curriculum to help pupils catch up. For example, in history you plan for pupils in key stage 2 to learn about World War 2 during their study of the local area.
- You provide pupils with learning packs when they need to work from home. You ask teachers to align the work in the packs with what pupils would otherwise be learning in class. Pupils submit work and receive feedback from their teachers using email.
- You are ready to provide remote learning to 'bubbles' should the need arise. You plan to deliver learning using an online platform. The platform will allow pupils to regularly submit work and receive feedback.

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 board of trustees, the chief executive officer of the Bath and Wells multi-academy trust, the director of education for the diocese of Bath and Wells, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for North Somerset. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Barnes
Her Majesty's Inspector