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9 December 2020

Simon Trahern
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Trahern

Ofsted remote visit to Jolesfield Church of England Primary School

Following my remote visit with Frances Nation, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 26 November 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 and other leaders. 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:

- Since the start of the school year, approximately one in six pupils have had to remain at home because of COVID-19. For the vast majority of these pupils, this was for a short amount of time.
- Pupils in all age groups are being taught their usual range of subjects. You have made some adaptations to some subjects. For example, all physical education lessons are being taught outside and do not include any gymnastics or dance.
- Teachers have carried out assessments of pupils' knowledge and skills in reading and mathematics. They are using this information to decide what they need to focus on most with pupils.
- Pupils are spending additional time on their reading, including extra independent reading. Younger pupils are having longer phonics lessons, to help with their early reading.
- In mathematics, teachers are helping pupils to remember different mathematical vocabulary.
- In all subjects, teachers are considering the learning that pupils missed when they were not in school during the summer term, and are including key elements of this in current topics.
- Currently, if a pupil needs to learn at home for a day or two, they can access different activities online. This is mostly work in English and mathematics, with some other work linked to the other subjects they are learning about in class. If they need to remain at home for longer, they also receive a pack of

paper-based work. Where possible, teachers try to make sure that this work is very similar to what is being taught in school.

- If a class 'bubble' needs to learn at home, teachers are planning to provide pupils with activities which use pre-recorded videos to help them with their learning. Pupils will also be able to receive paper-based packs if this is easier for them.

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 Chichester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for West Sussex. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Maxine McDonald-Taylor
Her Majesty's Inspector