

Tribal Group
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR
T 0845 123 6001
F 0845 123 6002

Ofsted helpline
08456 404045
edhelpline@ofsted.gov.uk



Mr Paul Jones
The Executive Headteacher
Chudleigh Knighton Church of England Primary School
Chudleigh Knighton
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 0EU

24 November 2006

Dear Mr Jones

OFSTED MONITORING OF SCHOOLS WITH NOTICE TO IMPROVE

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 15 November 2006, for the time you gave to our phone discussion, and for the information which you provided during my visit.

As a result of the inspection on 11 May 2006, the school was given a Notice to Improve in two areas: first, to secure substantive leadership and management of the school; and second, to improve progress in English, mathematics and science in Key Stage 2.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the issue of substantive leadership has been fully resolved and that the school is making good progress with regard to improving pupils' achievement and learning in the identified subjects throughout Key Stage 2.

Chudleigh Knighton Primary School has been formally federated with your own school, Blackpool Primary School, under your executive headship. The day-to-day management of the Chudleigh Knighton site is the responsibility of a senior teacher with the newly created post of head of teaching and learning. A new governing body has been formed for the federation from the two existing governing bodies. This is the first formal federation in Devon and took effect from the beginning of the autumn term.

The impact of the federation has already produced significant improvement in the quality of educational provision at the Chudleigh Knighton site. As executive headteacher, you have produced a clear improvement plan for the school. Joint staff meetings have been held and there is a strong emphasis on the two schools working very closely together for the benefit of all the pupils in both schools. Amongst the changes made there has been some staff

movement between the two schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning. There has also been substantial improvement to both the interior and exterior of the school which now presents an attractive and effective learning environment. Pupils say that the refurbishment of the playground makes it an exciting place to be during break and lunchtimes. Although pupils moved away from Chudleigh Knighton after the inspection in May, numbers are now increasing and pupils are returning. Pupils at the school say how much they now enjoy coming to school and feel that they are making better progress in their learning.

The staff have worked extremely hard to reinvigorate the quality of the educational experience for pupils at Chudleigh Knighton. There is now clear evidence of pupils and teachers working closely together to improve performance in all subjects, not just those identified at the time of the inspection. Of particular importance is the introduction for pupils of learning targets which are closely linked to progress through the National Curriculum levels of attainment. Pupils are now being given better guidance through marking and oral comments about how to improve their work. During lessons, pupils' attention is often drawn to the key features of attainment and how to make better progress. The consequence of this since September, for the majority of pupils, is that progress is now at least satisfactory and, for some pupils, it is good. Because there is a legacy of underachievement, pupils' basic skills in some strategies, especially in mathematics, are still weak, but the better quality of teaching is beginning to rectify this. Overall, standards are average in Key Stage 2 and the pupils are making satisfactory progress.

The local authority has provided appropriate support and encouragement for the new federation and additional monitoring support and guidance for the teachers at the Chudleigh Knighton site. Continued development is now secure through newly defined leadership and an improved quality of teaching.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Way
Her Majesty's Inspector