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5 June 2007

Mrs Kay Pennicotte-Henrie
The Headteacher
Rowlands Castle St John's Church of England Controlled Primary School
Whichers Gate Road
Rowland's Castle
PO9 6BB

Dear Mrs Pennicotte-Henrie

Ofsted Monitoring of Schools with Notice to Improve

Thank you for the help which you and your staff, governors and local authority representatives gave when I inspected your school on 23rd May 2007, for the time you gave to our phone discussion and for the information which you provided before and during my visit.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 1-2 November 2006, the school was asked to:

- Raise standards and achievement in Year 1 and 2, particularly by raising teachers' expectations of pupils
- Ensure all assessment information is fully used to plan work that challenges all pupils
- Ensure that teachers in all lessons make use of learning objectives that focus clearly on what pupils are expected to learn.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievements.

Pupils enter the school with abilities that range from average to above average. They are making satisfactory progress at Key Stage 1, because teaching has improved and higher expectations are made of pupils working in classes. However, standards this year will be below average for Year 2 pupils because of the weaker teaching and over ambitious assessments in the past. Mathematics is the weakest subject at Key Stage 1.

Standards overall are above the national average for the current Year 6 and below expectation for the current Year 5. The much improved assessment data at the

school supports this. Teachers are making much better use of this data to plan more challenging work for the pupils and ensure they now make better progress.

The school tracks the progress of pupils through the school and is able to make more accurate predictions about their standards in teacher assessments. The work seen in Year 6 indicates that pupils are working above national levels for English. However, mathematics is likely to be closer to national averages again this year. The school is aware of this weakness still in the curriculum and is working hard to increase the pace of learning for all Key Stage 2 pupils.

Pupils are on task and well focused on the activities they are being asked to do. They have good attitudes to learning and respond well to teachers' questions.

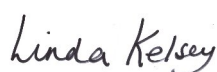
Teaching has improved across the school and most lessons are more focused on the learning outcomes for pupils. Planning, which is improved, identifies clearer learning objectives for the pupils. These are discussed and shared with pupils. There is a sequence of planned activities that build on the knowledge and understanding that pupils already have. Although, the pace of lessons has improved in some good lessons, there is work still to do in other classes in both key stages. Here the pace is slow, pupils spend too long on the carpet listening to teachers explaining and talking about the tasks.

Teachers are making more effective use of assessment data to track pupils' progress. This enables them to plan lessons according to the next steps of learning needed to enable pupils to make appropriate progress. Information and communication technology (ICT) is being well used, particularly in Year 6, to enhance the learning. For instance it is more real and relevant for the pupils who are aiming to become good authors.

The support from the local authority is good. The headteacher has been able to focus on the key important developments for the school such as improving teaching. The school has received teacher coaching from an assistant headteacher and regular monitoring by a school improvement partner. As a result, governors are more informed about the strengths and weaknesses of the school. They are more confident about how improvement is being made in teaching and learning and the assessment of pupils' progress over time through the much improved tracking data.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Kelsey". The script is cursive and fluid.

Linda Kelsey
Her Majesty's Inspector