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Miss J Luzmoor  
The Headteacher  
Wardour Catholic Primary School  
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Salisbury  
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Dear Miss Luzmoor

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 15 January 2008, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please pass on my thanks to Mr Arundell, chair of governors, and to the pupils who met with me.

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 17 October 2006, the school was asked to: make sure that pupils work to their full capacity in mathematics; improve standards in writing by Year 2; and, provide opportunities for pupils to learn all aspects of information and communication technology. In addition, the inspection identified the school was not meeting the statutory requirements for safeguarding pupils.

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' achievement.

The school has taken appropriate steps to improve writing by Year 2. Pupils have more opportunities to write in all classes, often linked to history, geography or religious education, and the headteacher provides additional teaching in Year 2. Systems for assessing pupils' writing have been improved. Writing is assessed termly, using guidance from the local authority to determine the standard of pupils' work and to establish what each pupil needs to do next. Each pupil has a specific target, but these are not referred to sufficiently during lessons to support learning. It is also not clear what happens if a pupil meets their target quite quickly. Nevertheless, the school actions are having an effect. National test results in writing at Year 2 improved in 2007 and those in Year 2 now are on track to reach higher

standards. Progress is satisfactory based on pupils' standards at the end of Reception. The school does not expect enough of the children who leave Reception with very good writing skills for their age. Predicted levels for these pupils are too modest. The school should be aiming for more to reach Level 3 by the end of Year 2.

Standards in the Year 2 mathematics tests were just below average in 2007 and these pupils did not build securely on their starting points. Standards are improving and pupils are making satisfactory progress in Years 1 and 2. This is also the case in Year 6, where pupils are likely to reach appropriate levels based on their standards at Year 2. The school has improved its resources for mathematics and the way it assesses pupils. Tests are analysed carefully to establish where the main strengths and weaknesses lie. The tracking sheets and assessments are used by the headteacher to identify how well pupils are making progress, but are not used as effectively to guide teachers' planning. Questioning is not always used well in lessons, to encourage pupils to discuss and explore their thinking, or to target harder questions at pupils who can manage them. Achievement in Years 3 and 4 is improving, but some pupils are not making the expected progress. Progress is more secure higher up the school but there is an overemphasis on repetitive number work. This is to the detriment of pupils using and applying their mathematical knowledge across different areas of mathematics, to broaden and vary their experiences in lessons.

The school has improved provision for information and communication technology (ICT). Laptop computers and new software have been bought to support learning across various subjects and are being used regularly in most classes. In Years 3 and 4, pupils are learning to use spreadsheets, which was a weak area at the last inspection. However, pupils in Years 5 and 6 have very little understanding of this area and there are gaps in their knowledge and experience of ICT. Standards in ICT by Year 6 remain below average.

The school has put into place appropriate procedures for child protection and has complied with most of the requirements that apply to all schools for safeguarding children. The central record does not include some of the required information so does not fully meet the statutory requirements.

The school has had some input from the local authority's consultants and advisors to support its work. Visits have helped the school to develop its self-evaluation and have validated the school's own view of its effectiveness as satisfactory. There has been less emphasis on reviewing the school's progress in relation to the areas for improvement from the last inspection. However, following a request from the school, recent visits have focused on supporting writing and exploring the data the school holds on pupils' attainment and achievement.

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

Yours sincerely

Margaret Dickinson  
Her Majesty's Inspector