10 October 2007

Mrs J Ahern
Headteacher
St. Matthias Church of England Primary School
Cromwell Road
Malvern Link
Worcestershire
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Dear Mrs Ahern

**Ofsted survey inspection programme of primary schools 2007/8
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 5 October 2007 to look at work in ICT.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of ICT, the visit had a particular focus on the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with you, your co-ordinator, Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of a Year 2 and a Year 6 lesson in the computer suite.

The overall effectiveness of ICT was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Standards and achievement in ICT are good. The contribution to pupils' personal development and well-being is good.

- Pupils enter school with standards which are generally in line with expectations. By Year 6, standards are above expectations and pupils' achievement is good.
- Throughout the school, pupils enjoy using ICT. They work well together and are proud of their work. They support each other well when things go wrong or when they are not sure what to do next.
- ICT has a good impact on raising standards in other subjects.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Pupils benefit from the good subject knowledge of their teachers in lessons.
- Pupils are well managed and consequently work well together. Those with challenging behaviour are well motivated by ICT.
- Teaching assistants give good support, especially to those pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- The school recognises that teaching assistants and support staff require further ICT training and this has been included in recent plans.
- Assessment procedures are good and are being adapted to improve tracking and planning for different groups of pupils and to make the process more manageable for teachers and pupils.
- Pupils know how well they are doing and good use is beginning to be made of self assessment through the use of "I can" statements.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the ICT curriculum is good.

- The programmes of study are being covered well through the use of a national scheme, which has been adapted by the Local Authority to meet local needs.
- There is a consistent approach to planning, which is raising the profile of ICT in most subjects.
- Provision for pupils with disabilities and/or learning or behaviour difficulties is good. These pupils make good progress in ICT. However, a very small minority of pupils with very specific needs do not have access to adapted hardware and software to aid their learning.
- Gifted and talented pupils are supported well through the after school computer club and their involvement in the production of the school website.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management of ICT are good.

- The ICT manager has a good vision for the subject, which is shared by you and your governors, who support the development of the subject well.
- The action plan for ICT is comprehensive with clear and achievable success criteria. It has already resulted in raising standards and achievement in ICT and improvements in ICT provision.
- Parents and pupils are informed of the policy for safe use of the internet but this needs to be revised to ensure their formal agreement.
- The subject manager has ensured that ICT, and especially the suite, is regularly used by all pupils. This has resulted in improvement of pupils' ICT skills and in raising achievement in many subjects, especially English and mathematics.

- This year, the further development of ICT is the focus for the school and plans are already in place for more formal monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning.
- A technician gives good support to ensure that computers and whiteboards are in good working order. A programmer is also employed for half a day a week to ensure that programs are loaded and working correctly. This supports teachers well.

Subject issue - the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement

The impact of ICT on whole school improvement is good.

- The use of ICT to raise standards in other subjects is good as demonstrated by the use of ICT to raise standards in writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, history and religious education.
- The overall effectiveness of ICT has been evaluated well but opportunities to monitor teaching and learning on a formal and regular basis have been limited.
- The "Family learning" initiative, where parents and carers are invited into school to use the computer suite with their child, is having a very positive impact on the ICT standards of the adults involved and also on the ICT, literacy and numeracy standards of the pupils teaching those adults.

Inclusion

- Good use is made of ICT to motivate all pupils and to support pupils with learning difficulties and /or disabilities.
- More able and gifted and talented pupils make a good contribution to the school's web site and the organisation of the after school club.
- The "Family learning" initiative is raising the self-esteem of those pupils involved and is also improving their ICT capability.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included to:

- ensure that the subject leader has regular and planned opportunities to monitor the quality of ICT teaching and learning
- adapt relevant hardware and software for pupils with very specific needs to allow ease of access to ICT.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your Local Authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Green
Additional Inspector