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19 March 2008

Mrs M Frawley  
The Headteacher  
St Anne's Catholic Primary School,  
Chace Avenue  
Coventry  
West Midlands  
CV3 3AD

Dear Mrs Frawley

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Thursday 28 February 2008, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please extend my thanks to Ann your deputy, the other staff and, of course, the children.

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 11 September 2006, the school was asked to: improve aspects of the curriculum which promote opportunities to extend communication skills systematically and develop pupils' creativity; use assessment information more consistently to plan lessons which meet the needs of all pupils; develop the work of middle managers in the school so that they take a more active role in improving standards in their areas of responsibilities; and, pursue strategies to improve attendance more robustly.

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.

Since the last inspection, the headteacher has organised training sessions to ensure that all staff are more aware of opportunities within the curriculum to extend pupils' communication skills systematically and develop their creativity. A whole school focus on the book 'Where the Wild Things Are' was particularly successful, linked many subject areas and provided a good opportunity for pupils to showcase their work to their parents. During the visit, other creative strategies were noted in lessons, such as: the teacher in role; the pupils involved in debating issues concerning a David Hockney painting; and, pupils were encouraged to extend their speaking skills to give detailed answers to explain an adjective and a simile.

The school has a wealth of assessment information which teachers are now using to plan for the full ability range. In the four lessons observed, planning took account of all pupils in the class, although the more able were not challenged enough. Teachers plan interesting activities, although the learning objectives are not consistently clear or referred to enough during the lessons. The final plenary part of the lesson did not always focus enough on how much pupils had learned and did not provide enough information for the teacher to inform their future planning.

Subject leaders are now more involved in the overall leadership and management of the school and have a greater awareness of the school's priorities for improvement. Monitoring and evaluation are much more systematic and the subject managers have a more accurate picture of the quality of teaching and standards achieved in their areas of responsibility. However, they currently have a less secure understanding of their subsequent role and the actions required by them to improve standards.

There are now much more robust attendance strategies in place as a result of the focused work of the two effective and enthusiastic learning mentors. Attendance has improved from 90% in 2006 to 93.2% in 2008, exceeding the local authority target. Attendance targets are now set. The walking bus and the well attended breakfast club are examples of positive initiatives that ensure fewer pupils arrive late, and supports identified parents who find it difficult to assure their child arrives on time. The learning mentors now phone parents of absent children before 10.30am each day and the school is informed of any planned absence more frequently now. All parents requesting holidays in term time are now interviewed by the headteacher, which has resulted in fewer parents taking their children on holiday in term time.

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 "Clive Kempton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Clive Kempton  
Her Majesty's Inspector