

Serco Inspections
Colmore Plaza
20 Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T: 0121 679 9169
Direct email: elizabeth.rashvand@serco.com



25 January 2013

Mrs Margaret Hyde
Headteacher
St Margaret's Catholic Primary School
Glossop Road
Derbyshire
SK13 6JH

Dear Mrs Hyde

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Margaret's Catholic Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 25 January 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection on 31 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, representatives from the governing body and a group of pupils. A telephone conversation was held with a senior school improvement adviser from the local authority. The school improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant contextual changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded with suitable urgency to the areas identified for improvement at the recent section 5 inspection and the school improvement plan has been updated to take account of these. Action planning is detailed and identifies measurable success criteria against which the impact of actions can be

systematically monitored and evaluated. Immediate action has been taken to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning. For example, the marking policy is currently under review. As a result, pupils report enthusiastically that they are enjoying opportunities to be involved in peer-assessment and self-assessment. This is providing them with stronger motivation to meet their targets.

Subject coordinators are being provided with appropriate time, training and support to carry out a range of monitoring activities, including analysing data and lesson observations. They are developing a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities in securing improvements in pupils' performance.

The Governing Body has also made a positive response to the recommendations in the previous report. It has undergone some restructuring to ensure that there is a sharper focus on checking how well pupils are doing. All governors are being provided with a range of training opportunities, provided through the local authority governor support services, to ensure that they are better able to hold senior leaders to account for pupils' achievement.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends a further one day visit to carry out a series of joint lesson observations with senior leaders to support the school in improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school is drawing effectively on support from the local partner school through the current informal federation arrangements. The local authority senior adviser has an in-depth knowledge of the school and his considerable support is acknowledged by the school as a key factor in the good progress the school is making. He has devised a focused plan of support which includes a significant number of consultant days. This support has already begun and the consultant is working effectively with the school to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate
Her Majesty's Inspector