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10 May 2013

Mrs Anne Robinson  
Interim headteacher  
Caston Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School  
The Street  
Caston  
Attleborough  
Norfolk  
NR17 1DD

Dear Mrs Robinson

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Caston Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 8 May 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 15 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit, I met with you and the two class teachers, the new headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body with three other governors, the school adviser from the local authority and the school council. The school action plan was evaluated. Other documents were considered, including data on pupils' achievements and the views of parents. Pupils' books were looked at in each class with the interim headteacher.

**Context**

A new headteacher has been appointed to lead the school from September 2013. Two new members are soon to join the governing body.

## **Main findings**

Improving pupils' learning is now firmly established as the main focus for teaching staff, leaders and governors. For example, teaching staff make sure that time is not wasted in lessons with a prompt start and learning that moves on at a suitable pace. Similarly, monitoring by senior leaders and governors focuses on the business of improving teaching and means that staff and the governing body are better informed about the quality of pupils' learning.

The action plan focuses on the issues raised at the inspection, but does not yet give a sufficiently strategic overview because it is for this term only and does not have targets for pupils' long-term, good achievement. The plan also needs more detail to show exactly what it is about pupils' achievement that needs to improve. A suitable range of monitoring takes place but the findings are not always well recorded or evaluated to check whether that what they find is good enough or to point towards further improvement. The governing body recently agreed a monitoring policy and have started to monitor the actions identified in the action plan. Their visits to school now have a clear purpose. A review of governance will take place next month.

Actions taken since the inspection are starting to make a difference to the quality of teaching and the amount of progress made by pupils in lessons. The implementation of a new marking policy in March provides pupils with better quality information about how well they are doing and what to do next to improve their learning. Revision to the way that pupils' achievements are tracked provides an overview of attainment over the year and how many pupils reach age-appropriate levels. This helps teachers to check for any pupils who are not progressing to the next level. The school's data indicates that standards of pupils' work are starting to rise. Changes to the format of pupil-progress meetings and to consultations with parents make sure that underachievement is discussed and recorded more thoroughly.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that further action is taken to:

- revise the action plan so that it covers the next academic year and makes specific reference to measurements for pupils making good academic progress
- have a clear view about the specific areas of pupils' achievements in reading writing and mathematics that need to improve, and which groups of pupils the improvements apply to
- record all monitoring activities so that the information is shared and recommendations followed up.

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

## **External support**

The local authority provides a suitable level of support, expecting senior staff and governors to lead improvement and to ask for support as needed. The new headteacher has contacts and training in place for next term and the newly qualified teacher has made good use of courses during the past year.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Norfolk and the Diocese of Norwich.

Yours sincerely

Heather Yaxley  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**