

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 9161
Direct email: ann.morris@serco.com



10 July 2013

Mr Andrew Beeson
Headteacher
The James Bradfield Church of England Community Primary School
Wretton Road
Stoke Ferry
King's Lynn
PE33 9QJ

Dear Mr Beeson

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to The James Bradfield Church of England Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 9 July 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 in March. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you, representatives of the governing body and spoke to an officer from the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school action plan and looked at other documents including your records of lesson observations and assessments of pupils' progress. I also visited a number of lessons.

Context

Since the previous inspection one teacher has left the school.

Main findings

Senior leaders are successfully putting in place their post-inspection action plan. The plan covers all of the areas requiring improvement identified at the previous

inspection. However, it does not show clearly the order in which you will tackle the different priorities. Similarly, it is unclear when senior leaders or others will carry out monitoring and evaluation activities.

There are early signs that teaching is improving. Your lesson observations, supported by my visits to lessons, show that teachers are now more regularly checking pupils' work during lessons to make sure that the level of challenge is right. The assessments of pupils at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 show that achievement is considerably higher now than previously.

Links with an outstanding school are helping you develop an effective calculation policy and raising your understanding of how to achieve good and outstanding teaching and learning. A presentation and handwriting policy developed since the inspection is already helping to raise the expectations of some staff and their pupils are presenting their work more carefully. More effective questioning by staff is increasing the opportunities pupils have to share their ideas with each other and to explain their reasoning when giving answers. You observe teaching regularly. Your feedback following observations is helpful because it highlights clearly areas that require improvement. However, you have conducted just one book scrutiny and so have missed additional opportunities to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning.

The previous inspection asked for an external review of the governing body. This will take place in September. During the last school year an experienced Chair has been instrumental in strengthening the ability of other governors to fulfil their responsibilities. The new pay policy links closely to the performance of pupils and demonstrates that governors are prepared to hold you and other school 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. They should take further action to ensure:

- clarity about the order in which they will tackle each area for improvement
- the action plan shows clearly when senior leaders or others will carry out monitoring and evaluation activities
- that senior leaders check the quality of work in pupils' books more frequently.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority has continued to provide effective support for the school. It has improved the work of the governing body through the work of the County Chair,

provided highly valued help and advice through its improvement officer and secured future support for the school through its *Norfolk to Good to Great* programme.

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

Yours sincerely

Anthony O'Malley
Her Majesty's Inspector