

Tribal
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

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

Direct T 0117 311 5359
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Email: christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com

18 June 2014

Mrs R McGlynn
Headteacher
Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School
Shernhall Street
London
E17 3EA

Dear Mrs McGlynn

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 18 June 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the senior leadership team, members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority and middle leaders. We discussed the actions taken since the last inspection.

The school action plan was also evaluated along with other school documents. These included pupil progress data, the outcome from school monitoring activities and the local authority progress reports.

A tour of the school, across both sites focused on marking, assessments and the classroom environment.

Context

Since the inspection three teachers have resigned and been replaced with permanent teachers. Two teaching assistants have resigned and you are using this reduction in staffing to fund an additional teacher for half a day in every year group.

You have restructured non-teaching responsibilities and appointed a school business manager with responsibility for finance across both sites.

Main findings

You have reacted quickly to the areas of improvement identified in the section 5 inspection report. Improvement is already evident in pupils' learning and classroom experiences. The action plan is clearly focused and has ambitious targets for the school to achieve by the end of this academic year. This plan provides a clear set of objectives and tasks. These are carefully monitored and evaluated. Outcomes and progress so far are analysed and future development is planned to build on the steps already secured.

Senior and middle leaders have undertaken training to support the planned actions. Much of this training has taken place jointly and has allowed for a level of dialogue, and mutual support that previously did not exist. The training has empowered leaders to drive forward individual teacher accountability. This dialogue also allows for training needs to be quickly identified and has led to appropriate training being commissioned.

Better use of data within the accountability process has led to rapid improvement in attainment and progress in Year 2 and Year 6. There is an improvement across the whole school.

Governors are clear about the strengths and areas of improvement at the school. They have undertaken training to support their role as governors. Governors have also attended training alongside teachers, with the shared aim of developing the quality of teaching and learning. They hold you and other senior leaders to account. They make sure that they take an active role within the school, reviewing the impact of the new marking policy; undertaking their own pupil work scrutiny.

Governors are supportive of the improvement that you and your staff are making and are fully behind the development of links between your school and the Davies Lane and Selwyn Primary School Federation. You along with the local authority brokered this supportive arrangement. It is clear that this link is improving the quality of teaching and learning that your pupils receive. The partnership has allowed for mentoring and support for leaders at all levels. Staff at your school

readily acknowledge the importance of this support in empowering leaders to improve pupil outcomes.

While there have been significant improvements, you acknowledge that there is more to do. The improvements in progress and attainment in Years 2 and 6 must be mirrored throughout the school; all pupils should make the same good progress.

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 recognised the need to increase the level of support provided to the school before the last section 5 inspection. A review of the school was carried out by the local authority in January 2014. This has allowed the local authority to provide appropriate and focused challenge and support. The school improvement consultant regularly visits the school. Leaders are challenged to demonstrate the impact of their actions and there is a clear focus on improving outcomes for pupils.

The link between your school and the Davies Lane and Selwyn Primary School Federation provides training to improve the quality of teaching and learning. This is regular and is already improving pupils' learning experience. This is in support of your school's own training programme. In addition, the link provides development support and training for leaders. Middle leaders were clear that the investment in training for all staff and the greater levels of accountability are the driving force for improvement.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Waltham Forest and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Flanagan
Her Majesty's Inspector