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26 January 2014

Miss Maureen Kelly
The Headteacher
St Theresa's Catholic Primary School
East End Road
Finchley
London
N3 2TD

Dear Miss Kelly

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 26 January 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in October 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, deputy headteacher, teachers, teaching assistants, governors, pupils and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

The only change to staff since the last inspection has been the appointment of an additional midday supervisor.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Senior leaders and governors have acted swiftly to address the safeguarding concerns highlighted at the recent section 5 inspection. A safeguarding action plan has been developed and clearly outlines how improvements are being made.

Leaders have introduced more robust systems to keep pupils safe. Members of staff respond quickly and thoroughly to concerns which arise and they value the new rigour brought to safeguarding procedures. New forms for reporting incidents have been introduced and are being used consistently. The headteacher keeps detailed logs of all safeguarding concerns. These are regularly reviewed and follow-up checks are made where needed.

Leaders have improved procedures to record accidents when they occur. This is enabling senior leaders to analyse records more effectively and identify actions to reduce accidents.

Governors have a clear understanding of the improvements that have taken place and the impact these have had. They recognise that policies and procedures still need time to embed. The recently appointed safeguarding governor has undertaken a variety of monitoring activities, including a safeguarding audit and a review of the incident logs. An evaluation of the safeguarding action plan shows that all actions have been completed to ensure safeguarding practices now meet statutory requirements.

The school has been well supported by the local authority. An action plan to secure improvements was rapidly drawn up by the local authority in consultation with the school's senior leaders. A representative from the local authority carried out a review of safeguarding in November and significant improvements were noted. The local authority has ensured that priority places on safeguarding training are allocated to staff and governors. All staff and most governors have recently received this training.

A separate action plan is in place to support the school in meeting the needs of more able pupils. Leaders have implemented a range of strategies to ensure more able pupils are challenged further. The recently appointed inclusion leader is monitoring this aspect of the school's work effectively and has introduced additional opportunities for pupils to work in smaller groups. Scrutiny of pupils' work shows that more able pupils are challenged well in these sessions. Governors understand the need to gain a deeper insight into this aspect of the school's work to ensure they are able to monitor the impact on more able pupils fully. The local authority is monitoring the progress of more able pupils.

The school's improvement plan and additional action plans are fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, and the Director of Children's Services for Barnet and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mel Rose
Her Majesty's Inspector