

Serco Inspections
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 9153
Direct email: naik.sandhu@serco.com

29 May 2015

Ms Jane Ransome
Headteacher
Woodford Church of England Primary School
High Street
Woodford
Kettering
NN14 4HF

Dear Ms Ransome

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Woodford Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 21 May 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 on 27 February 2015. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, the inspector met the headteacher, deputy headteacher, Chair and another member of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and a representative of the diocese. The inspector also accompanied the headteacher on a tour of the school. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated. The inspector also reviewed a range of pupils' assessment data and monitoring records. The inspector checked the single central record.

Context

Since the last inspection, there have been a number of staffing changes including the resignation of three teachers, effective from 31 August, and the appointment of

three teachers to start work on 1 September 2015. This will result in a change of teacher in three out of the four classes. In addition, the school has appointed a teacher to work in the Year 3/4 class each morning and a teaching assistant to work in the early years to provide additional support in order to accelerate children's progress. The school has also secured additional administrative support, extended the headteacher's contract so that she is now full time and extended the deputy headteacher's contract by half a day.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

School leaders have responded quickly to address the issues identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school has put in place an improvement plan with the support of the local authority and the Pilgrim Learning Trust. The local authority has agreed a statement of action.

The school improvement plan addresses the issues identified in the recent Ofsted report. The plan is comprehensive. It details improvement actions, the person responsible for ensuring the actions take place and the completion deadlines. However, in some cases, the person monitoring the action is the same person who is leading on the action. This is not appropriate. Similarly, the plan does not clearly identify how the governing body will check the impact of senior leaders' work.

Both the plan and the statement of action appropriately include elements focused on improving the quality of teaching and performance of subject and other middle leaders. This work is underway; however, these sections do not take into account the significant changes to the teaching staff in September.

The school has acted promptly to improve provision and standards in the early years. This has included the provision of additional teaching assistant time to support the children with their learning. It has also involved working with the local authority early years adviser to develop the school's understanding of assessment in the early years. In addition, the early years leader has visited schools with outstanding early years provision to evaluate their learning environments.

The governing body has appropriately increased the capacity of the school's leadership. The headteacher and deputy headteacher now have more time to carry out their duties effectively. The governing body has removed the routine administrative tasks previously undertaken by the headteacher. Leaders have recently appointed three experienced teachers to ensure stability for staffing in September.

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plan is 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, the Director of Children's Services for insert local authority name and as below. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Derek Myers

Her Majesty's Inspector

Once the school has had 24 hours to report any factual inaccuracies, the post-inspection letter is copied as appropriate to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority – (including where the school is an academy)
- Contractor providing support services on behalf of the local authority - where appropriate
- Diocese – for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The lead inspector.