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Andy Mawdsley
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Dear Mr Mawdsley

Additional, remote monitoring inspection of All Saints Church of England Primary School

Following my remote inspection with Peter Stonier, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), of your school on 3 and 4 February 2021, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions that have been taken to provide education to all pupils during the current circumstances.

This monitoring inspection was conducted under section 8 (2) of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections remain temporarily suspended. It was additional to the usual monitoring process for schools that are judged to require improvement.

Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 (coronavirus) lockdown restrictions, this monitoring inspection was carried out remotely. As such, the range of evidence available to inspectors was narrower than would normally be the case during an on-site inspection. As a result, this letter provides a more limited level of assurance than our usual monitoring reports.

The inspection took place because the school received two successive judgements of requires improvement. The school's most recent section 5 inspection took place in June 2019.

Having considered all the evidence and taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on the school, I am of the opinion that at this time:

Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.

Leaders and those responsible for governance should take further action to:

- ensure that, in each subject, what pupils are expected to know and remember over time is carefully chosen and sequenced.

Context

- There have been changes to the senior leadership since the last inspection, including newly appointed deputy and assistant headteachers and other staff. An experienced chair of governors was also appointed.
- Almost all pupils were educated in school during the autumn term.
- Currently, almost all pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and those who are vulnerable, are attending on site. Around six in ten pupils are receiving remote learning at home.

Main findings

- You, the leadership team and staff are working together for the benefit of pupils. Sustaining high expectations and staff morale has been a priority. You have ensured that all pupils have access to remote education when needed.
- Following your last inspection, you focused on developing the school's curriculum. Senior and subject leaders have worked together to complete new curriculum plans for all subjects. This has allowed teachers to deliver sequences of lessons throughout the pandemic. However, these plans do not yet make clear what pupils need to know and remember in all subjects.
- Teachers have adapted the school's curriculum to make sure that pupils can learn remotely. Teachers use a range of approaches to deliver remote education, such as activities in workbooks, recorded lessons, website challenges and projects. Most parents and pupils have been pleased with the work set. Teachers provide regular feedback to pupils to help them improve their work.
- Reading remains a high priority. Phonics are taught daily, including for those pupils who do not yet have secure phonics skills. Teachers are continuing to develop pupils' love of reading. They match books well to the sounds pupils know.
- Staff keep in regular contact with all pupils to check on their well-being. Pupils we met remotely were keen to explain how well they are cared for. They explained that they are learning new knowledge and revisiting work when they need to. This is helping them to make as much progress as is possible currently.

- Teachers are providing an effective education for those pupils who attend school in person. This includes the most vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. You have encouraged others to attend who have struggled to learn at home. Staff are checking that these pupils attend school when planned.
- Work set for pupils with SEND is challenging. While staff support these pupils well, they also encourage them to do as much as possible for themselves. Staff are in contact daily with SEND pupils who are learning at home. Staff are also helping families to access external services and organisations. Staff ensure that all families have suitable electronic devices to access remote learning.
- The governing body, led by an experienced chair, is holding you and your leadership team to account for improving the curriculum. This work began before the pandemic and continues. The governing body has a wide range of skills and expertise. Governors hold regular discussions with senior and subject leaders to make sure that pupils are receiving an effective education. Governors have a good understanding of parents' views.
- The local authority has supported the school by appointing an experienced chair of governors and providing valuable guidance and challenge. This has had a positive impact on developing the subject leader roles and the curriculum.

Evidence

This inspection was conducted remotely. We held meetings with the headteacher, the deputy and assistant headteachers, representatives of staff, pupils, the chair and vice-chair of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss leaders' actions to provide education to all pupils during a national lockdown.

We also looked at examples of remote learning from different year groups and a variety of subjects. We spoke with a group of pupils to gather their views on the education and care they are receiving from staff, and we listened to pupils read to a member of staff.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the Diocese of Leicester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Leicestershire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Philip Garnham
Her Majesty's Inspector