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Adam Greaves
Headteacher
Oak Hill Church of England Primary School
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Gloucestershire
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Dear Mr Greaves

Requires improvement monitoring inspection of Oak Hill Church of England Primary School

This letter sets out the findings from the monitoring inspection of your school that took place on 31 January 2023, on behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills. The monitoring inspection was carried out under section 8(2) of the Education Act 2005 and took place because the school has received two successive judgements of requires improvement at its previous graded (section 5) inspections.

During the inspection, I discussed with you, other staff, governors and a school improvement adviser from the local authority the actions that have been taken to improve the school since the most recent graded inspection. We discussed the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also visited lessons, looked at samples of pupils' work, spoke to some pupils about their learning, reviewed curriculum documents and the school development plan. I have considered all this in coming to my judgement.

Oak Hill Church of England Primary School continues to require improvement. Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to become good.

The school should take further action to:

- ensure that there is a systematic plan to secure the improvements needed in all the wider curriculum subjects

- ensure that teachers provide pupils with sufficient opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills across different subjects.

Main findings

Since the previous inspection, all pupils now attend Oak Hill Primary at the Alderton site. Pupils are taught in three classes. There have been significant changes in staffing, with two teachers leaving the school and one new teacher appointed to teach in key stage 2.

Your work to overhaul the curriculum is beginning to have a positive impact on pupils' learning. You are identifying the precise knowledge pupils must know and remember with your staff. Teachers provide pupils with time to practise and recap their learning. This helps pupils retain the most important knowledge. This is particularly evident in mathematics and history. However, you know that there is more work to do in other subjects, such as science and design technology.

Your work to raise staff expectations of what pupils will know and understand is making a demonstrable difference. Staff appreciate the training and coaching they receive. This approach increases their subject knowledge and their understanding of how pupils learn. As a result, learning is now better sequenced and broken down into smaller steps. Pupils I spoke with are positive about their learning and can confidently recall what they have been taught. However, you acknowledge that pupils cannot always make links to their learning across other subjects. For example, they struggle to see how mathematics can help them in their science and geography work.

The positive changes in the curriculum and the increase in teachers' expectations are improving pupils' attitude to their learning. They work hard in lessons and persevere when they find things challenging. As a result, pupils no longer switch off during lessons.

Governors support you well and hold you to account. They use their knowledge and expertise to routinely check that the actions you and your staff are taking are effective. This is making a difference to pupils learning. You value the support and challenge provided by external advisers and the local authority. You say this is helping to make the necessary improvements.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the Diocese of Gloucester, the Department for Education's regional director and the director of children's services for Gloucestershire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted reports website.

Yours sincerely

Jen Southall
His Majesty's Inspector