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7 July 2015

Julie Sarti  
Headteacher  
Colne Engaine Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School  
Green Farm Road  
Colne Engaine  
Colchester  
CO6 2HA

Dear Mrs Sarti

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Colne Engaine Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 6 July 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 February 2015. 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.

The school should take further action to:

- Improve the impact of the monitoring of teaching and learning by ensuring that leaders focus their feedback to teachers on the impact of teaching on pupils' progress.
- Ensure that leaders check the impact of strategies to help pupils' catch up, to ensure they are effective in improving pupils' progress.
- Ensure that the teaching of English, spelling, grammar and punctuation improves quickly.

## **Evidence**

During the inspection, I met with you and we visited the classrooms together. I also met with members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority, to discuss actions taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school's improvement plan and scrutinized other documents including those relating to the monitoring of teaching and achievement data.

## **Main findings**

The proportion of children achieving a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage has improved and is above average. The proportion of pupils in Year 1 meeting the required standard in the phonics check is close to average. Key Stage 1 outcomes have improved since 2014. Teachers' assessments indicate that attainment at Level 4+ in reading has improved, but the proportion of pupils attaining Level 4+ in writing and mathematics has declined this year. The unvalidated results in the English grammar, spelling and punctuation assessments are well below average, although they have improved from 2014. The proportion of Year 6 pupils who have made the expected progress from their Key Stage 1 outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics is close to average.

You and other leaders check the quality of teaching by observing lessons, reviewing progress data and looking at the work in pupils' books. You provide valuable feedback to teachers to help them improve, but sometimes this feedback does not focus sufficiently on the impact of teaching on pupils' progress. You meet regularly with teachers to review pupils' progress and to plan catch up strategies when pupils are falling behind. There are missed opportunities to check the impact of these strategies when you visit lessons to observe teaching.

A review of governance has been completed. Governors have formulated a plan to improve their effectiveness. Governors are proactive about asking for the information they require about achievement and the quality of teaching. They have also laid out their long-term aspirations for the school so that there is clarity about their aims. You provide the governing body with thorough and regular information about the school's progress and governors know the school well. However, the school's improvement plan does not include enough measureable criteria to help the governors track the school's progress more rigorously.

Ofsted may carry out further monitoring inspections and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

## **External support**

The local authority is monitoring the school's progress through the improvement board and the regular visits of a local authority representative. The local authority has commissioned a review of the impact of pupil premium funding which is planned

to take place before the end of the summer term. It has also provided training to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Essex and the Director of Education for the Diocese of Brentwood.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Winter  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied 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