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Canon P Williamson
Headteacher
Canon Slade CofE School
Bradshaw Brow
Bolton
Lancashire
BL2 3BP

Dear Canon Williamson

No formal designation monitoring inspection of Canon Slade Church of England School

Following my visit with Judith Nelson Her Majesty's Inspector and Clive Hurren Additional Inspector to your school on 8 July 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings.

The inspection was a monitoring inspection carried out in accordance with the no formal designation procedures and conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was carried out because the Chief Inspector was concerned about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements at the school.

Evidence

Inspectors scrutinised the single central record and other documents relating to safeguarding and child protection arrangements. Other school documentation was scrutinised including the school development plan, the local authority safeguarding review of the school, minutes of governing body meetings and pupils' attendance and early leaving data. Inspectors met with the headteacher, designated senior leaders responsible for safeguarding, groups of staff including year heads and year tutors, groups of pupils and a representative of the governing body. Inspectors also met with the Church of England Diocesan Director of Education, the school improvement partner and a representative of the local authority's safeguarding team. Inspectors reviewed the 159 responses to the Ofsted on-line questionnaire (Parent View), alongside the school's own records of parental and student feedback.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time:

The school's safeguarding arrangements meet requirements.

Context

The school is a much larger than average-sized secondary school. The proportion of students from minority ethnic groups is average and very few speak English as an additional language. The proportions of students supported at school action, or school action plus, or with a statement of special educational needs are much lower than average. The proportion of students eligible for support through the pupil premium is low when compared to the national average. The pupil premium is additional funding to support students known to be eligible for free school meals and children who are looked after by the local authority. Around one fifth of students in the school's large sixth form attended other schools for their 11 to 16 education. Levels of mobility for students and turnover of staff are low. The last Ofsted inspection was in December 2012 when the school was graded outstanding in all aspects.

Behaviour and safety of pupils

Behaviour is managed well throughout the school. Inspectors conducted walks around the school during lessons, breaks and lunch-time. They talked formally and informally with many students. They expressed high confidence in the school both in respect of their safety and in the quality of the teaching and learning they experienced. Many demonstrated a highly committed and enthusiastic approach to their studies. Students' behaviour observed was exemplary. Students are highly articulate and inquisitive. Their behaviour towards each other is very supportive and inclusive. Students adopt safe practice and receive good quality guidance in how to be safe and keep safe, including e-safety. Attendance rates are very high. Students said that there were few incidents of bullying and, where these occurred, they were dealt with quickly and were resolved. Students confirmed that when they have concerns they know who to approach and have the confidence to do so. Those parents who have responded to the on-line Ofsted questionnaire (Parent View) expressed confidence that their children are safe in school.

The quality of leadership in and management of the school

Leadership and management have ensured that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the safeguarding of students. Leaders and managers have a clear understanding of these arrangements. Documentation and case studies confirm that these procedures are followed when safeguarding cases arise. School guidance and documentation indicate that safe practices in recruitment are followed for all staff. The school's arrangements for checking the suitability of staff are complete and meet statutory requirements. The school's behaviour log lacks sufficient detail on the actions and impact of actions in relation to behaviour and bullying incidents. The curriculum for personal, social, health and citizenship education (PHSCE) is well

focused on embedding a safe culture for all across the school and providing students with a range of skills to help them make positive choices both at school and in later life.

Teaching and support staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding is regarded as everybody's responsibility. Staff receive annual updates on safeguarding including e-safety and the use of social media networks. An annual staff handbook on child protection guidance is issued to staff. All staff will undertake further training on safeguarding in October 2014, conducted by local authority officers. Courses on e-safety and the use of social media are organised for parents to promote further a wider understanding of safeguarding issues.

Governors understand their safeguarding responsibilities. They receive reports on safeguarding matters from senior leaders. The governing body recently commissioned an audit of safeguarding which was conducted by the local authority. Governors recognise that further work is required to heighten the level of professional challenge to senior leaders in respect of the quality assurance of safeguarding and the clear notation of this in governors' minutes.

Senior leaders and governors recognise that further improvements to procedures and practice will enhance and promote a strengthening of safeguarding good practice well beyond statutory minimum requirements. The school's leaders have fully accepted the findings of the local authority safeguarding review and its recommendations, some of which have already been implemented.

External support

The school receives strong support from the local authority in refining and improving school safeguarding procedures and practice. A thorough local authority safeguarding review has been conducted with a set of recommendations for further and enhanced improvement. Further safeguarding training is to be provided by local authority officers. The school has links with a number of external agencies which help in the support and advice for students whose circumstances make them vulnerable. The diocese also offers well-focused support to both governors and school leaders.

Priorities for further improvement

- Implement the recommendations of the recent local authority safeguarding review of the school so that safeguarding procedures are further improved, enhanced and embedded.
- Sharpen behaviour logs so that they detail the actions and impact of actions resulting from an investigation into any reported incident.



I am copying this letter to the Director of Children's Services for Bolton, to the Secretary of State for Education, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Church of England Diocesan Director of Education and the Education Funding Agency (EFA). This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Geraghty
Her Majesty's Inspector