

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231  
[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)



16 November 2020

Sue Thackray  
Headteacher  
Driffield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School  
St John's Road  
Crosshill  
Driffield  
YO25 6RS

Dear Mrs Thackray

### **Ofsted visit to Driffield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School**

Following my visit with Kirsty Godfrey, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 15 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and members of the senior leadership team, including the senior leader responsible for safeguarding. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

**From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- You opened to pupils in Years 1 and 2 on Tuesday 8 September. Children joining the Reception class had a phased start over the first two weeks. Pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is higher than it was at this time last year.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of curriculum subjects.
- Teachers have checked pupils' phonics knowledge. You explained that, as a result, teachers are revisiting parts of the reading curriculum where there are gaps identified in pupils' skills.
- In mathematics, teachers have checked pupils' starting points. You told us that pupils are following their normal mathematics curriculum. Additional time at the beginning of each unit of work is used to revisit any necessary prior learning.
- Pupils who are unable to attend school have access to online learning. You are also sending home paper-based work and practical activities as part of the remote learning package. You plan to continue with this approach if and when needed.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the diocese of York, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for the East Riding of Yorkshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Head  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**