

23 October 2012

Wendy Adamson
Park Primary School
Monmouth Road
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN2 4JP

Dear Wendy Adamson

Monitoring inspection Visit to Park Primary School

Introduction

Following my visit to your school on Monday 15 October 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings.

The visit was a monitoring inspection carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to evaluate aspects of safety and of the leadership and management of safeguarding.

Evidence

The inspector observed the procedures for pupil leaving Foundation 1 at the end of the day, spoke to parents and carers, scrutinised documents, toured the site with school leaders and met with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the Foundation Stage manager and the temporary site manager. He also spoke a representative from the local authority by telephone.

Context

On 18 September 2012, an incident took place when a child in the Early Years Foundation Stage left the school unsupervised. This event was reported in the local and national media. The incident has been investigated by the School Improvement Service in Doncaster's Children and Young People's Service. Ofsted considered that it was appropriate to make a visit to the school to evaluate relevant aspects of safety and the leadership and management of safeguarding.

Safety and the leadership and management of safeguarding

The investigation of the incident when the child left the school unsupervised was carried out promptly by the headteacher. The local authority carried out its own investigation three weeks later, following the press reports and enquiries from Ofsted. Following the incident,

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the headteacher and Foundation Stage manager implemented a new procedure immediately. The inspector observed this taking place safely. Parents and carers said they were happy with the new system and thought it was safer. The headteacher and the Chair of Governors have written letters of apology to the parents. The school's response to the incident, and the measures it has put in place, are effective in dealing with the causes of this incident.

The local authority investigation correctly identified that the fence between the Foundation one exit area and the next door car park is too low. In addition, the exit gate fasteners are within the reach of children. The school is replacing the fence and changing the gate. The monitoring inspection also identified a poorly maintained environmental area close to the Early Years Foundation Stage play area.

External support

Once made aware of the safety issues by Ofsted, the School Improvement Service carried out an immediate and appropriate investigation of the incident. The investigation report provides a clear account of the findings and recommendations. At the time of the monitoring visit, the headteacher and governing body were awaiting a copy of the investigation report.

Main Judgements

The school responded effectively to the safeguarding incident. On the day of the monitoring visit the procedures for collecting children were operating safely and to the satisfaction of parents and carers.

Leaders have not been effective in assessing and dealing with the risk presented by the potential access by young children to the overgrown environmental area. Ofsted has made clear to leaders that they should ensure that steps are taken now to prevent access to that area.

I am copying this letter to the chair of governors and Doncaster Children's Services. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mr Bernard Campbell

Her Majesty's Inspector

cc

Chair of governors

Local authority