

Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1LH

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0121 683 3263
Direct email: lewis.mackie1@serco.com



15 November 2012

Stephen Hull
Headteacher
Hollingwood Primary School
Lilac Street
Hollingwood
Chesterfield
S43 2JG

Dear Mr Hull

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Hollingwood Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 14 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. 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 13 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, members of the senior leadership team, representatives from the governing body, a small group of parents and the link adviser from the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection in September 2012 one member of staff has returned from maternity leave.

Main findings

A revised school improvement plan is strongly focused on tackling the areas for improvement identified in the previous inspection. The plan is practical and

manageable. Senior leaders are refining the plan further to ensure that there are clear, quantifiable targets for evaluating its impact on the quality of teaching and learning and pupils' achievement. The Governing Body has made a positive response to the recommendations in the previous inspection. It is developing a clearer understanding of the strategic direction of school development and ensuring that school improvement is being driven forward by holding senior leaders more rigorously to account.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends a further one day visit to carry out a series of joint lesson observations with senior and middle leaders to support the school in improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority appointed a new link adviser to the school in September 2012. He has quickly become familiar with the school and the areas identified for improvement at the recent section 5 inspection. He has already provided the school with considerable support and is clearly focused on helping the school to embed improvement by getting to root of issues. He has been pivotal in devising a good programme of local authority support for the school.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate
Her Majesty's Inspector

PROTECT-INSPECTION



The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese – for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.
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