

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

PROTECT-INSPECTION

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

Direct T 0121 683 3281

Direct email: siobhan.garrattley@serco.com



20 November 2012

Mrs F Hollingsworth
Headteacher
Gunthorpe Primary School
The Pentlands
Hallfields Lane
Peterborough
PE4 7YP

Dear Mrs Hollingsworth

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

Following my visit to your school on 20 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and two representatives of the local authority. The school development plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, the responsibility for mathematics subject leadership has been reallocated, but there have been no other staff changes. The recent resignation of two governors leaves vacancies that the governing body is currently seeking to fill.

Main findings

The school accepts that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones, and has made suitable plans to strengthen the quality of teaching

and learning in identified areas. Senior leaders have responded with suitable urgency and have taken immediate action to:

- strengthen lesson planning and develop peer coaching
- improve the range of activities for children in Reception
- develop the roles of middle leaders
- implement a whole-school approach to teaching phonics.

The revised school development plan addresses the main areas that need improvement and is suitably underpinned by separate action plans that are linked to improving numeracy, literacy, and provision in Year 1 and Reception. The headteacher has secured the active involvement of all staff and delegated responsibility for drafting and overseeing planned actions in order to develop the roles of middle leaders. However, some action planning is imprecise: planned actions do not have clear milestones or success criteria against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated. Moreover, although training is planned for governors, it is not clear how they propose to develop their effectiveness. The governing body has no separate action plan, its impact has not been reviewed, and monitoring by governors is not written into the school's development plans.

Senior leaders are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. However, following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that action is taken to strengthen governance.

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

External support

The local authority continues to provide effective support for the school. Since the inspection this support and guidance has been well tailored to meet the school's most urgent needs, particularly in regard to improving the teaching of phonics.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Brooker
Her Majesty's Inspector