

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 0121 683 3261  
**Direct email:** ann.morris@serco.com



3 December 2012

Steve Harris  
Rakegate Primary School  
Rakegate Close  
Wolverhampton  
WV10 6US

Dear Mr Harris

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

Following my visit to your school on 30 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 on 3-4 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with senior leaders, the Governing Body, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan, the school's assessment information, the Governing Body minutes and performance management information were evaluated.

#### **Context**

There have been no changes in context since the inspection in October.

#### **Main findings**

The amended school development plan addresses all the key priorities identified at the school's recent inspection. There are strengths in terms of the use of measurable indicators to check progress. Senior leaders recognise the barriers to further improvement such as the lack of involvement of a minority of parents. The

school benefits from the considerable financial expertise that Governors possess but not all governors are fully confident when it comes to using comparative data to evaluate the school's effectiveness.

Senior and middle leaders are more effective because they are learning more from effective practice elsewhere. For instance a contributory factor to the improvements in the Early Years Foundation Stage and more recently in mathematics is the links the school has with other schools. In addition the school has recognised that new initiatives are more likely to be successful if these are carefully monitored and amended throughout the period of implementation. For instance the school is rightly giving a lot of attention to the impact of its new approach to performance management that focuses on specific groups of pupils making enhanced progress during a term. The pupils appreciate that they are listened to but the school is at an early stage of being able to gain insights into learning from pupils.

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 recommend that further action is taken to:

- Develop longer term plans that more clearly outline how the school will deploy its pupil premium funding and link this to the priority the school has regarding increasing the involvement of parents.
- Ensure governors receive regular training, independent of the school, on how they can effectively analyse the comparative data that exists about the school's performance.
- Use the pupil voice more when evaluating learning.

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

### **External support**

The school is improving quite strongly therefore it is not the recipient of significant external support. The school has recognised that the links with other highly effective schools will help accelerate the rate of improvement. The local authority has prompted governors to ask the right challenging questions. Further external support should be directed towards ensuring governors can even more effectively hold senior leaders to account.

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

Yours sincerely

Kevin Sheldrick  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**