

PROTECT-INSPECTION



Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street T 0300 123 1231
Edgbaston Text Phone: 0161 6188524
Birmingham enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk **Direct T** 0121 683 3259
B15 1LH www.ofsted.gov.uk **Direct email:** lisa.parkes@serco.com

26 November 2012

Mr Lee Venning
Headteacher
Heatherbrook Primary School
Astill Lodge Road
Beaumont Leys
Leicester
LE4 1BE

Dear Mr Venning

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Heatherbrook Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 23 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher and the Chair of the Governing Body. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staffing or changes in the school's status since the last inspection.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

School leaders, including the governing body, have developed an appropriate action plan to address the issues identified at the last inspection. The actions in the plan

link closely with the school's targets to improve the quality of teaching and the progress that pupils make. The school agreed to make several minor amendments to the plan during the HMI's visit. As a result, leaders' expectation of the proportion of good or better teaching by the end of July 2013 moved from 70% to 80%. The proportion of pupils in Key Stage 2 expected to make accelerated progress (at least 3.5 points of progress) by July 2013 was increased from 75% to 85%.

Senior leaders undertake a range of activities, including lesson observations, to support improvement in the quality of teaching. However, the impact of these activities on improving teaching is not as strong as it could be. This is because leaders do not always check carefully enough that the issues they identify for improvement are re-checked in subsequent activities. Although senior and middle leaders are becoming increasingly involved in using information about pupils' progress to support their work, some staff still lack the skills and experience to do this effectively. The HMI will review the impact leaders make on improving the quality of teaching and how effectively they use information about pupils' progress during his next visit.

The governing body has an accurate overview of the work of the school. This is because governors undertake an increasingly extensive range of activities to check the impact of the school's actions on improved outcomes for pupils. Governors have the necessary skills and knowledge to hold leaders to account.

The local authority has provided good support to the school since the last inspection, particularly in brokering a partnership with a local school recognised for its very strong practice. The local authority has also provided effective support to the school in helping to write the school improvement plan.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Leicester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector