

Tribal
1-4 Portland Square
Bristol
BS2 8RR

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

Direct T 0117 311 5307
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Direct email: Emma.Thomson@tribalgroun.com



15 January 2013

Joanne Green
Headteacher
Walliscote Primary School
Walliscote Road
Weston-Super-Mare
Somerset
BS23 1UY

Dear Mrs Green

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

Following my visit to your school on Tuesday 15 January 2013, 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 October 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 governors. I met with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. During a tour of the school with the headteacher, I talked to pupils in Key Stage 1 and looked at their work in a literacy and a numeracy lesson.

Context

There have been no changes to the school's staffing or the governing body since the inspection in October 2012.

Main findings

The school has set about tackling weaknesses with determination and energy. The headteacher has been instrumental in helping the Key Stage 1 leader develop her leadership skills through training and support. She has also made regular time available for the team to share what is working well and to identify the next steps for further improvement. As a result, the Key Stage 1 leader is energising and motivating her team. This is 'keeping the ball rolling' and a very positive move forward.

There is now a consistent approach across the school to improve the quality of teaching. Senior leaders now have a sharper focus on the training needs of staff than was previously the case and link this well with teachers' performance in the classroom. Everyone who spoke with me indicated their commitment and enthusiasm in working to be judged a good school.

The recently introduced changes to the way the school follows up pupil absences and involves other professionals in working with families has resulted in an improvement in pupils' attendance. The school improvement plan includes all aspects from the recent inspection that were judged to require improvement. Actions are appropriate and they are planned in a timely way. However, more could be done in how school leaders and governors consider evidence to evaluate the success of their actions.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified during the recent section 5 inspection. However, to strengthen their approach to driving improvement HMI recommend that the school takes the action outlined below:

- tweak the school improvement plan by adding an evaluation column, which should include a more precise focus on the evidence, including that from governor visits to school, to show whether actions taken are being successful in improving the quality of teaching and raising standards.

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

External support

The school has welcomed external support, which has contributed to the on-going training of staff. The school values support from the local authority adviser and the discussions around school action planning. Following the inspection, a review of governance was carried out by an external professional. This was particularly helpful in looking at the different skills governors have. As a result, a few changes were made to committees, so that everyone's experience is now used in the best way. The governing body is very open to suggestions about improving their ways of

working. They consider carefully what to take on board, and this is a sensible approach.

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

Yours sincerely

Jane Neech
Her Majesty's Inspector