

Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 0121 679 9158  
Direct email: rachel.dayan@serco.com



Ms Lynne Charles  
Headteacher  
Linton Primary School  
Main Street  
Linton  
Swadlincote  
DE12 6QA

Dear Ms Charles

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

Following my visit to your school on 28 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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, two representatives of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan, records of monitoring, performance management information and other school documents were evaluated.

#### **Context**

There have been no changes to the context of the school since the last section 5 inspection.

## **Main findings**

The headteacher is providing an effective steer to school improvement work. Improvement planning is in place which identifies appropriate actions. These plans do not always have regular, clear and measurable targets to enable the school's leaders and governing body to check how well plans are working. Suitable training and support are being provided for teachers and teaching assistants to improve the quality of teaching and learning, particularly to make sure that all pupils are challenged to do as well as they can.

Policies for feedback to pupils and setting pupils' targets for improvement have been revised. However, not all teachers are implementing these policies correctly. The headteacher is aware that some of the additional adults who help in lessons are not always used to help pupils learn well as they could.

A new system of rewards and sanctions to promote improved behaviour has been introduced. Training has been given to improve the teaching of the sounds that letters make (phonics). Teachers are giving more priority to developing children's early literacy and mathematics skills in the outdoor areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The impact of these actions has yet to be fully monitored. Work to improve the way pupils increase their knowledge and skills in subjects other than English and mathematics across the school is in its early stages.

The governing body have responded positively to the support they have been given by the local authority to improve the way they hold school leaders to account. More training is planned. Governors do not have a programme of visits to school to check on the success of improvement work first hand. This is a time of transition for school leadership and a permanent structure has yet to be finalised.

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:

- identify targets for school improvement actions that can be measured alongside points in time to check on their success
- take urgent steps to ensure that the agreed approach to giving feedback and setting targets for pupils is put in place effectively by everyone
- ensure that steps are taken to make sure that additional adults make a strong contribution to pupils' learning in lessons
- introduce a programme of visits for governors to check on the work of the school first hand
- finalise the leadership structure so that everyone can play their full part in driving improvement quickly.

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

## **External support**

The headteacher has responded positively to the range of support offered by the local authority. She has particularly valued the work of the Link Advisor in improving systems to monitor and evaluate the work of the school. Learning consultants have worked with the school to improve the quality of teaching, particularly of phonics, mathematics and learning outdoors in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Partnerships with other schools have been signposted in order to improve the quality of the curriculum and pupils' behaviour. A training plan has been set up for the Governing Body. The local authority has demonstrated its confidence in the capacity of school leaders to continue to improve the school by changing the school's category to one which requires a lighter touch.

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

Yours sincerely

Joanne Harvey  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**