

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 1231231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566862
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
rcowley@cfbt.com



14 January 2013

Mr Stephen Holden
Tottington Primary School
Moorside Road
Tottington
Bury
Lancashire
BL8 3HR

Dear Mr Holden

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Tottington Primary School on 21 January 2013

Following my visit to your school on 21 January, 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, deputy headteacher and other school leaders. Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) met with the Chair of the Governing Body and two representatives of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated, and a range of documentation was reviewed, including records of monitoring activities and arrangements about performance management. The headteacher also took the HMI on a tour of the school.

Context

There have been no staff changes since the inspection although the governing body have made some changes to their school effectiveness committee to ensure a specific focus on improvement.

Main findings

Leaders and governors accept that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones. They articulate an ambition to improve and have drafted action plans to address the areas for improvement identified in the inspection. However, the criteria by

which leaders and governors can measure how much improvement is being made, need to be more precise to enable teachers, leaders and governors to have a clear understanding of what success looks like. Leaders have agreed a clear timetable and have begun to check the quality and consistency of teaching and pupils' learning. However, leaders and governors agree that a more precise focus on the impact actions are having will help to drive improvement more swiftly.

The governor's school effectiveness committee now meets more frequently and has a clearer focus on monitoring improvements and holding the leaders to account. Consultants in literacy and the Early Years Foundation Stage, brokered by the local authority, have begun working with leaders to plan for and address aspects for improvement identified by the inspection.

Leaders, governors and local authority representatives are all in agreement that there is a pressing need to resolve the current arrangements in the Early Years Foundation Stage. As part of their performance management, all teachers have individual targets to improve their teaching and ensure that pupils make accelerated progress. This reflects a clear sense of direction and drive from the headteacher and aligns well to the response from middle leaders who are enthusiastic to develop their roles and ensure they take greater responsibility for pupils' progress.

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 recommends that further action is taken to:

- further sharpen aspects of the school improvement plan to include criteria which charts the progress of all pupils and shows clearly how leaders and governors will measure and evaluate the impact of the school's actions
- resolve the situation in the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure improvements in the quality of provision meet the needs of all children in the Nursery and Reception classes.

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

External support

The local authority has worked in partnership with the school to coordinate a range of useful support for staff. This is helping to identify the actions needed to improve the quality of teaching and address issues in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Guy

Her Majesty's Inspector