

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

Direct T: 0121 679 9161
Direct email: ann.morris@serco.com



26 February 2013

Beverly Barrett
Headteacher
Greyfriars Primary School,
London Road
King's Lynn
PE30 5PY

Dear Mrs Barrett

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Greyfriars Primary School, King's Lynn

Following my visit to your school on 26 February 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 6 December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body, the teachers and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement action plan was evaluated. The headteacher and HMI carried out a joint learning walk and looked at some pupils' work in Years 1, 3, 5 and 6.

Context

There have been no changes in teaching staff since the section 5 inspection. Three governors' term of office came to an end and three new governors have been appointed to replace them.

Main findings

The school took immediate action to make improvements following the section 5 inspection. The school action plan shows that the inspection key issues helped to

give a sharper focus on precisely how to improve teaching and pupils' achievement. Senior leaders now meet twice a term with teachers to talk about pupils' progress, and teachers are required to explain exactly what they are doing to make sure pupils do their best work. Senior leaders keep a careful record of teachers' targets and give clearer guidance on precisely how to improve their teaching. The headteacher and literacy leader have observed all teachers and noted that pupils are given more time to write in lessons and are taking more pride in their work. This is evident in pupils' work seen during the monitoring inspection. Teachers have had training in how to teach mathematical calculations. The leader for mathematics has observed a few lessons following this training and noted that pupils' number skills are improving. All teachers will be observed before the end of term. The headteacher and Early Years Foundation Stage leader have observed Key Stage 1 teachers teaching the sounds that letters make (phonics). They have given advice where needed to make this even better. Further training on how to teach phonics is planned for later in the term. The headteacher has observed that teachers in the Early Years Foundation Stage are providing more opportunities for children to use writing and mathematics skills in activities they choose for themselves. The Chair of the Governing Body has a clear understanding of what governors must do to check how well teachers are improving pupils' achievement.

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:

- put into daily practice the initiatives being undertaken by the school.

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

External support

The school is drawing well upon the external support provided by the local authority. Two teachers taking part in a special programme are sharing the good teaching ideas with all staff. The link with a local outstanding school is at the early stages of development. Joint observations of lessons with senior leaders from the partnership school are planned for next week. Plans are also in place for all teachers to visit the partner school and use this experience to further improve their teaching.

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

Yours sincerely

Julie Winyard
Her Majesty's Inspector