

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 3115319
Direct F 0117 3150430
Direct email: matthew.parker@tribalgroup.com



16 January 2013

Clare Griffin-Felton
Headteacher
Moorlands Infant School
Moorfield Road
Bath
BA2 2DQ

Dear Mrs. Griffin-Felton

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Moorlands Infant School

Following my visit to your school on 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, deputy-headteacher, representatives of the Governing Body, subject leaders for English and mathematics and a representative of the local authority. The federation improvement and subject action plans were evaluated. HMI looked at documents related to subject improvement and discussed the systems for reviewing the quality of teaching and tracking pupils' attainment and progress.

Context

Moorlands Infant School is federated with Moorlands Junior School. The headteacher leads both schools.

Main findings

The headteacher has responded positively to the judgements of the October inspection and is resolute in her determination to improve the school's performance

to good. The school is working hard to improve the teaching of writing and mathematics. Teachers have had support with lesson planning and regular opportunities to see good practice modelled by colleagues at this and other schools. There has been a clear focus on the teaching of phonics (the sounds letters make). The school's intends to improve pupils' writing by helping them talk about their intentions as 'authors'. This needs to be reflected more fully as a priority in action plans.

The improvement plans are focused on improving outcomes for pupils. However, whilst there are clear targets set for how actions taken will improve pupils' achievement in English this is not the case for mathematics. There is not yet enough clarity in the plans about the strategy for improving teaching in the subject. Subject leaders are being helped to develop their skills in observing lessons and advising colleagues on how to improve, although this remains at an early stage. The governing body have commissioned an external review of their own work and identified key priorities for their own development. There is more to do to ensure all governors are monitoring and challenging further the impact of the school's improvement work.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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:

- make clearer the school's precise strategy for improving mathematics and to set challenging targets for this
- evaluate, with HMI, the impact of actions taken on outcomes for pupils
- ensure governors receive training for their strategic role in challenging senior leaders to improve the school's performance.

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

External support

The support provided by the local authority is valued by the school. School leaders and teachers continue to access effective consultancy advice from its officers. With the local authority's support, the school is also brokering links with networks of local schools and through teaching schools, which are helping it develop the leadership skills of staff in school.

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

Yours sincerely

David Townsend
Her Majesty's Inspector