

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 5359
Direct F 0117 315 0430
Email: christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com



18 April 2013

Ms Clare Griffin-Felton
Headteacher
Moorlands Junior School
Chantry Mead Road
Bath
BA2 2DE

Dear Ms Griffin-Felton

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Moorlands Junior School, Bath and North East Somerset

Following my visit to your school on 17 April 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 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, in addition to our meetings I met with the acting deputy-headteacher, representatives of the governing body, middle leaders and a representative of the local authority. I also evaluated the federation improvement and subject action plans.

Context

Moorlands Junior School is federated with Moorlands Infant School. The headteacher leads both schools. A new Chair of Governors was appointed in March 2013.

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded positively to the judgements of the January inspection. They have set challenging targets with the teaching team, who

understand that improving pupils' achievement is a shared responsibility. The federation improvement plan addresses the areas for improvement identified at the recent inspection.

Leaders are checking and developing the quality of teaching with care; by examining teachers' planning, visiting lessons and reviewing the work in pupils' books. School leaders have high expectations of the quality of teaching and weak teaching is tackled promptly and decisively. Teachers regularly see good practice demonstrated by colleagues and in other schools. As a result of these approaches, the quality of teaching is improving.

Subject leaders are fully involved in helping to improve pupils' achievement in their subjects. However, the subject action plans are not sharply focused on the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. Following an external review of its work, the governing body has drawn up an action plan and arranged training for governors who need to develop skills in interpreting performance data. A consultant has been helping all governors gain the knowledge and confidence to challenge and support school leaders effectively. However, this remains at an early stage.

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, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- refine and improve subject action plans
- arrange further training and support for governors on their role in holding the school to account.

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

External support

The local authority has provided effective support for senior leaders, teachers and governors. Its link officer works closely with the school's leaders to check on progress being made with its improvement work. The link officer also regularly brokers effective support for staff through partnership working with other local schools.

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