

Serco Inspections  
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)

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Mr Scott Fewster  
Headteacher  
Sketchley Hill Primary School Burbage  
Sketchley Road  
Burbage  
Hinckley  
LE10 2DY

Dear Mr Fewster

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Sketchley Hill Primary School Burbage, Leicestershire local authority.**

Following my visit to your school on 30 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit I met with you, the deputy headteacher, members of the senior leadership team, members of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. I evaluated the school improvement plan and a range of school documentation. This included the school self-evaluation form, data relating to pupils' attainment and progress and the analysis of that data as well as minutes of recent governing body meetings. You took me on a tour of the school and we made brief visits to all classes.

**Context**

Since the previous inspection in February 2013, the head of mathematics has resigned his post and will be leaving at the end of the summer term. A recruitment process is underway to appoint a suitable replacement for September 2013.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders and the governing body are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. They have set out a clear ambition to be good as rapidly as possible and have acted determinedly to achieve this. School staff and governors understand that improved pace and progress in lessons, particularly in mathematics, are key. Monitoring shows that many of the actions are already being taken. Some of the targets described in the plan are vague and difficult to measure. These targets were re-drafted during the monitoring visit, including numerical targets for teaching and learning, and for pupils' achievement. This will enable senior leaders and governors to monitor the impact of their actions more effectively.

Leadership roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and understood. However, both you and your deputy headteacher are carrying too much responsibility. While improvements have already been made in the quality of teaching and learning across the school, they will take time to have a full impact on the end of term assessments. This is something you will need to check on in the future. There are no plans this year to moderate these assessments to provide an objective check of their accuracy, as has happened in the past.

Governors receive regular information on all aspects of the school's work and know the school well. They have high expectations of the school, its staff and pupils and are working hard to achieve them. Most importantly, the governors have a good understanding of how well teachers are doing in terms of the progress that their pupils make and hold the headteacher to account for this important outcome.

Following the visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- publish the revised targets in the school improvement plan so that expectations are clear to all staff and governors
- develop the role of subject leaders so that responsibilities for securing further improvement are shared more widely
- maintain a tight focus on evaluating pupils' learning when observing lessons across the school
- conduct an external moderation of teacher assessments to validate their accuracy
- arrange for regular high quality support from an external adviser to provide an objective view of the quality of provision and outcomes to the governing body.

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

## **External support**

In the past, the school has regularly drawn on support from its School Improvement Adviser to provide an external view on the quality of its provision and outcomes. There are no firm plans to continue this support through a pre-planned programme. This has been, and will continue to be, central in securing your confidence to lead

the school forward. The School Improvement Partner has also provided support to middle leaders and to the governing body in how to perform their functions more effectively.

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

Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**