

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

7 May 2013

Ms Kathy Lockyear
Headteacher
East Preston Junior School
Lashmar Road
East Preston
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN16 1EZ

Dear Mrs Lockyear

Monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to a school requiring improvement

Following my visit to your school on 3 May 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.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in January 2013.

Evidence

During my visit, I had a discussion with your local authority locality adviser and looked at plans and records, including the post-Ofsted action plan. I also met the Vice-Chair and five other member of the governing body. I particularly appreciated the discussions that I was able to have with you and your deputy, and the opportunity to have a brief tour of the school.

Context

Although key senior staff and some governors were new at that time, there have been no significant changes to the membership of the governing body since the recent inspection of the school.

Main findings

You, your deputy, the staff and governing body are tackling the identified areas for improvement in a very clear and systematic way. Your action plan is clear about the areas for improvement and you have good evidence to show that many of these have been dealt with effectively already. As this is the case, much of the action plan is beginning to be redundant and the time is right for the school to move towards broader self-evaluation and improvement planning.

You are aware that, because the quality of teaching in the past was not consistently good, the progress made by the current Year 6 during their time at the school may not show the accelerated progress you are aiming for. They are, nevertheless benefitting from the strong teaching that they now receive. Evidence shows that other year groups are making greater strides in their learning as a result of a continuing improvement in the quality of teaching overall. Good opportunities are being provided for teachers to learn from each other and from other schools, and for newly qualified teachers to benefit from an experienced mentor. Teachers are making better use of the data available on the progress being made by each pupil. In turn, this is rigorously monitored by you and your deputy so that any teachers or pupils seen to be in need of support receive it effectively. It was very nice to hear from pupils that 'the school is getting even better – we all know we're up-levelling!'

Marking and independent learning were a focus for governor monitoring recently and their findings support yours that these areas are showing good improvement. You are clear that teachers' expectations of how pupils present their work are more consistent and this was evident in displays around the school and in the pupils' work I observed. Teachers themselves do not always model good presentation, for example when they write on the interactive white board.

Governors have not shirked from addressing the messages given by the most recent inspection. They have moved quickly to ensure that in future they will have the capacity and skills to provide challenge as well as support for the school. Their separate action plan has addressed key areas for improvement well and governors spoken to were clear about the current situation and where they wanted to go next.

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

- carry out an updated evaluation of the school's overall effectiveness to identify current strengths and areas for improvement, including those identified in the post-Ofsted action plan. To aid governor monitoring, further plans should include clear deadlines for actions to be completed and identify those responsible for leading each improvement.

I will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. I will also follow up opportunities for representatives from the school to attend relevant seminars provided by Ofsted.

External support

You and your colleagues have made good use of the advice and support available to you from other schools and agencies within the locality and beyond. The school's locality adviser has provided well-focused support and swift action has been taken by the local authority's governor services to support the governing body. The outcomes of the forthcoming review of governance should provide you with even more information about strengths in this area and any aspects which could be improved.

I am copying this letter to the local authority and to the chair of the governing body. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Anne Duffy

Her Majesty's Inspector