

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 5323
Direct email: suzy.smith@triblagroup.com



6 June 2013

Mrs H Ormerod
Headteacher
Othery Village School
Othery
Bridgwater
TA7 0PX

Dear Mrs Ormerod

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Othery Village School

Following my visit to your school on Wednesday 5 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report my findings. 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement in November 2012.

Main findings

- You have sustained the sharp focus on securing better teaching and better progress well.
- There is easier access to information on the progress of different groups of pupils and attainment in subjects over time as a result of improvements to the system for tracking pupils' progress. Available data indicate that most pupils across the school are on track to achieve the accelerated progress the school has targeted in 2012/13.
- Following the earlier development of the leadership of mathematics, the focus has shifted successfully to English with the new subject leader carefully supported in taking on responsibility from March. For example, he has observed a series of lessons jointly with you and gradually taken the lead in providing feedback to the teachers involved.
- As a result of lesson observations, the careful scrutiny of pupils' work and discussions with staff, the English leader has a firm grasp of strengths and

weaknesses in this subject. A joint observation with me conducted during this visit demonstrated his perceptive comments and accurate judgements.

- Year 6 pupils I interviewed were positive about the attention teachers give to ensuring that work is at the right level of difficulty. They reported a strong emphasis on reflecting for themselves on how to improve their writing. There is ample evidence of this in pupils' books and of improving standards of work. One pupil commented that it is 'normality now that we edit our work and highlight our work to see what we're proud of'.
- The governing body has now received training on developing its monitoring role. Several governors subsequently visited classrooms accompanied by the headteacher, although fewer were able to be involved than was hoped. The governing body intends that a termly governors' monitoring day be established in 2013/14.
- Individual governors have also visited the school, for example one visited English lessons while another attended a session to compare pupils' work in mathematics. As a result of these activities, governors are better informed and asking more challenging questions, for example about the information on pupils' progress presented by the headteacher. Governors meet pupils, for example informally through the governors' book club, but do not systematically seek their views relating to the school's improvement priorities.
- The school continues to benefit from the support of a local leader of education, as arranged by the local authority. This has included useful visits to Othry by some of her subject leaders, for example to provide support for the new English leader. The local leader is taking on a new headship in another county from September 2013 and the local authority has yet to make new arrangements to support the further development of this school.

These findings are based on the evidence gathered as follows. I met with you, the subject leader for English and four governors, including the Chair. I had a telephone conversation with the local leader of education and met all Year 6 pupils. I scrutinised a sample of literacy books with the English subject leader as well as other materials you made available, including data on pupils' progress. Joint visits were made to English lessons in Years 1 and 2 with the subject leader and in the Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 class with you.

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

Yours sincerely

Grahame Sherfield
Her Majesty's Inspector