

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 1231231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566 937
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
jsimmons@cfbt.com



12 June 2013

Mr A Cogill
Headteacher
Thornton Primary School
Thornton Road
Thornton
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD13 3NN

Dear Mr Cogill

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Thornton Primary School, Bradford

Following my visit to your school on 11 June 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 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leaders, governors, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. The inspector evaluated a range of documentation including: the school improvement plan, the tracking of pupils' progress and records of lesson observations. In addition, the headteacher and deputy headteacher took the HMI on a tour of the school to look briefly at teaching and learning.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staff or the school's organisation since the inspection.

Main findings

Following the inspection in March senior leaders and governors have responded with suitable urgency and have taken appropriate action to lay the foundations for improvements in pupils' learning and in raising their achievement, particularly in mathematics. The school improvement plan has been revised well and follows closely the areas for improvement. It gives a detailed picture of intended outcomes and provides a clear direction for the school. It is suitably underpinned with targets and milestones against which progress can be measured.

Systems to check more rigorously on the quality of teaching are gathering pace and have been tightened. Teachers are provided with clear targets for improvement as required and have received guidance on the aspects of their work that could be better. Further improvements are required in how senior leaders pinpoint with precision the achievement of pupils and groups within lessons and in measuring the impact of teaching on pupils' progress more accurately. In addition, senior leaders have correctly identified that the next step is to press on with their plans to agree key principles of what makes effective learning for pupils in all year groups.

Middle leadership has become sharper-edged. The actions of subject leaders are demonstrating a clear understanding of the school's most pressing priorities and a resolve to impact more effectively on school improvement.

Governors are very aware of why the school is not yet good. They know what is being done to improve provision and the actions required. They are confident to ask challenging questions of senior leaders and hold them to account.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- strengthen the monitoring of teaching with a clearer focus on the achievement of pupils in lessons
- agree key principles of effective practice in teaching and learning.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The support from the local authority has been well targeted and effective. The impact of this work is helping to improve the quality of pupils' learning, improve provision in mathematics and strengthen the skills of leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Steve Isherwood

Her Majesty's Inspector