

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

15 July 2013

Ms N Dunford
Headteacher
Hennock Community Primary School
Hennock
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 9QB

Dear Ms Dunford,

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Hennock Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 15 July 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, other members of staff and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also attended a meeting of the governing body and met briefly with a small group of pupils. Your school improvement plans and your records of the monitoring of teaching and learning were also evaluated.

Context

A new part-time teacher who is a mathematics specialist has been appointed and will begin teaching at the start of the new academic year.

Main findings

You have wasted no time in amending your school improvement plan to incorporate actions to address the areas of weakness identified through the recent inspection. These plans clearly identify who is responsible for implementing and monitoring each action, and by when. You are right in identifying as a priority the need to secure consistently good teaching throughout the school. To this end you have begun to draw upon the skills of colleagues within the wider federation to assist you securing rapid school improvements.

You have made clear to all staff what they need to do in order to support you in bringing about improvements in pupils' achievements overall and in mathematics in particular. Where weak teaching persists you are working closely with the local authority to address this issue. You have provided staff with individual support in order to help them improve their teaching skills and lead their subjects with greater confidence. You described a programme of training and development designed to strengthen teachers' skills further in mathematics and English which is to be introduced at the start of the new academic year. A teacher with leadership responsibilities spoke with me about how they have already benefited from a more personalised professional development. They said this has increased their ability to lead with greater confidence.

Your self-evaluation in the light of the inspection findings has been robust and honest. As a result, you have improved communication channels within the federation and strengthened the process of holding teachers to account. You provide the governing body with regular and detailed reports on the work of the school. The governors who met with me were candid in their response to the inspection outcome and said they already have a clearer understanding of what the school needs to do to bring about the required improvements. Governors say they are now in a better position to hold the school to account and provide you with the support and challenge you need to drive school improvement. Consequently, senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

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 local authority is working closely with the school in accordance with the principles and guidelines it has devised to secure the necessary school improvements. It is also working in collaboration with external partners to develop the skills and confidence of middle leaders and to strengthen the monitoring role of the headteacher and the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

David Edwards

Her Majesty's Inspector