

Serco Inspections
Colmore Plaza
20 Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T: 0121 679 9168
Direct email: beverley.joyner@serco.com

24 September 2013

Mrs Cristina Portoles
Headteacher
Laindon Park Primary School
Church Hill
Laindon
SS15 5SE

Dear Mrs Portoles

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Laindon Park Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 23 September 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.

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:

- ensure that teaching is consistently good in all classes
- identify and share the most effective practice amongst staff
- make better use of pupil progress meetings to target effective actions at individual pupils
- improve the capacity of all leaders to drive up the quality of teaching.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with you, other leaders the Chair and four members of the Governing Body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. For the same purpose, I held telephone conversations with a representative of the local authority and the school's external improvement adviser. Together, we made short

visits to all classes in the school. I evaluated your school action plans and checked your records of lesson observations, and files relating to performance management.

Main findings

The May 2013 Section 5 inspection served as a 'wake-up call' and as a catalyst for the significant improvement which has followed. Currently, school records show around three quarters of teaching to be good. You understand where teaching is already good and where it needs to get better. Since the inspection there has been considerable training to raise the quality of teaching including visits to see best practice in other schools. The impact of this can be seen in classrooms, for example through sentence writing guidance displayed in all classrooms. Marking has improved, but the best practice is not sufficiently shared with and adopted by other teachers. You have established an effective programme of lessons observations and have included senior and middle leaders in joint observations to improve their leadership skills. Subject leaders are beginning to play a greater part in getting the school to 'good', but not all leaders demonstrate your sense of urgency for improving the school's provision.

Since the May inspection, results in national tests have improved, especially at Key Stage 1 and for writing in Key Stage 2. The results for higher-attaining pupils at Key Stage 2 were more mixed. Pupils entitled to the pupil premium are now making as good as, or better progress than other pupils due to the good support they receive.

An external review of governance has taken place. Governors are now aware of the need to demonstrate that they have clear records of monitoring activities and of their challenge to the school's leaders.

Teachers all have access to information on the progress each pupil is making and this is discussed in pupil progress meetings. You are aware of the need to use these meetings to focus more sharply on what individuals need to do to catch up on gaps in their learning. Your action plans have appropriate targets. Subject action plans contain appropriate targets and activities with specific dates, but lack precise dates to judge whether activities are having a positive impact.

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

External support

Your school receives support from a range of external consultants including those commissioned by the local authority. At the time of the May inspection the local authority had not warned governors that the school's performance required improvement. Since then, the level of support has been stepped up with consultants for English and mathematics working effectively with the school's subject leaders. The local authority commissioner has been helping you. You have made good use of

your own external improvement adviser to assure the robustness of your judgements. You have been pro-active in sending your staff to observe best practice in other schools.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lyons
Her Majesty's Inspector