

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 Tel: 0121 679 9168

Direct email: Beverly.joyner@sercp.com

25 October 2013

Tim Barrett
Temple Sutton Primary School
Eastern Avenue
SS2 4BA

Dear Mr Barrett

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Temple Sutton Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 22 October 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:

- Accelerating the time scales for improvements in teaching.
- Monitor pupils' learning more frequently through regular and efficient scrutiny of work, teachers' planning and assessment information.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with you, two senior leaders, three members of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also had a telephone conversation with an external consultant who is supporting the school. You accompanied me on a tour of the school when we visited several classes and looked briefly at pupils' work. We also

observed outdoor learning in the reception classes and in the nursery. We evaluated some school documentation, including assessment information and the school's action plans.

Context

Since the inspection four new teachers have joined a school. One teacher retired and another left. The leadership team has expanded. A newly-appointed deputy head teacher and an experienced year 1 leader took up post in September 2013.

Main findings

You expect all teachers to improve and are ambitious for more teaching to be good or outstanding. During our tour of the school we saw good practice in some classrooms, which you identified accurately. This included high expectations of pupils, sharp questioning, helpful marking and work pitched at the right level for individual pupils in the class. More work is needed to improve the teaching in classrooms where it is not yet good, especially that which is occasionally inadequate. You are providing training and support to improve teaching. You are tackling the issues identified during the inspection in May and recent changes have led to improvements.

Pupils have lessons in music, art and PE from specialist teachers. This is providing opportunities for teachers to plan and assess in year group teams and is an improvement on previous arrangements. You are clearing corridors and shared areas so they are less cluttered. Parts of the outdoor area for the reception classes are very well resourced. More work is needed to improve the area beneath the canopy. The outdoor area for the nursery is in urgent need of development. Your senior leaders in Key Stage 1 and the Early Years Foundation Stage have made important changes to the way that the reception classes use the outdoor area. All teachers have not adopted these changes yet and this needs careful monitoring.

You have established processes for monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching. These do not give you and your senior leaders enough opportunities to keep a very close check on what is happening on a day-to-day basis in all classrooms.

Your action plan focuses on the right areas but there are aspects of it that need to be more precise. The success criteria do not link clearly enough to your key priorities. This means that it will be difficult to know when you have achieved your objectives. Some of the time-scales are too lengthy, and more urgency is required to improve the quality of teaching.

The inspection stated that the governing body needed to have an external review of their work. This has not yet happened. It is due to start in early November and must be finished by the end of December. Governors understand what needs to happen

for the school to improve and are seeking clearer measures of success from school leaders.

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

An external consultant (EdisonLearning) provides support for the school. The consultants have identified ways to improve processes and systems. Your action plans are being adapted to accommodate these changes. The local authority has contributed to the funding for this arrangement. In addition, a local authority adviser has maintained an overview of the school's improvement and has visited the school. The local authority has not provided guidance or advice on the post Ofsted action plan.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Moodie
Her Majesty's Inspector