

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: 01216 799154
Direct email: aidan.dunne@serco.com



9 December 2013

Stephen McClymont
Headteacher
Henry Chichele Primary School
School Lane
NN10 8NQ

Dear Mr McClymont

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Henry Chichele Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 6 December 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 October 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:

- increase the frequency of whole school assessment points to half termly, so that rates of individual pupil progress can be monitored more frequently.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the assistant headteacher, two members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority and subject leaders in charge of mathematics and English, to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plans were evaluated. Tracking and assessment documents and monitoring reports written by governors were viewed. A tour of the school was carried out with you during which pupils' workbooks were scrutinised. I spoke with pupils about their learning and progress.

Context

There have been no significant staffing changes since the inspection.

Main findings

Since the inspection in October 2013, you and the governors have wasted no time in addressing the key areas for improvement identified in the section 5 report. Staff training has been undertaken to improve marking and feedback and lesson planning to meet the needs of all abilities. During the tour of the school, evidence was seen of greater consistency in marking, and of increasing opportunities provided for students to act upon the actions for improvement. Pupils report that they find this new approach helpful. Learning objectives are clearly set out in all lessons for different ability groups. In addition, assessment and tracking information is used by teachers to help them to plan appropriate learning tasks. Assessment data collections, however, are not currently frequent enough to ensure that underperformance is identified early.

Current validated assessment data suggest that all groups of students make expected progress over time and many exceed national expectations in writing and mathematics. Pupils' writing is supported by clear literacy targets and evidence of extended writing was seen in workbooks. The Chair of Governors is experienced and skilled. The members of the governing body regularly check the information given to them by the senior leaders of the school. They have high aspirations for the school and appropriately support and challenge leaders. You are passionate about improving outcomes for all pupils; diligent and committed. You have enlisted appropriate support from different sources to improve the school further.

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 has provided 'light touch' support for the school. Its review of teaching and learning has been very useful in further driving up standards in the classroom. You currently receive valuable support from a neighbouring 'good' school; a link which you have fostered yourself. This partnership has provided important support to improve teaching and learning across the school and has added further challenge to your leadership.

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

Yours sincerely

Zarina Connolly
Her Majesty's Inspector