

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 9166
Direct email: helen.johnson@serco.com



11 December 2013

Jane Needle
Headteacher
Cliff Lane Primary School
Cliff Lane
IP3 0PJ

Dear Mrs Needle

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cliff Lane Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 10 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 on 18 September 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:

- refine the school improvement plan, to show more clearly how the school will check progress in each of the areas identified at the last inspection
- arrange to visit schools that are particularly successful in teaching pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- provide more opportunities for children to write at length.

Evidence

During the visit, I held a meeting with you, the deputy headteacher, the assistant headteacher and the head of inclusion to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. I also met with the Chair of the Governing Body, and had a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority. I evaluated the school development plan, scrutinised a sample of pupils' work and teachers' marking and visited classes to see pupils and staff at work.

Main findings

There have been no significant staff changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement. The school is currently exploring the possibility of becoming an academy but is yet to identify a suitable sponsor. The headteacher and the Chair of the Governing Body recently attended a 'Getting to Good' seminar.

During the visit you conveyed a clear understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and what needs to be done to secure the necessary improvements. You have made appropriate plans to address the issues identified at the last inspection. The plans place appropriate emphasis on the core business of teaching and learning and identify how training will help secure better practice and learning. Currently, however, the plans do not make clear exactly how you will measure the progress against each specific aspect.

When making judgments around the quality of teaching, school leaders are now making appropriate reference to the progress that children are making in each class. They are paying particular attention to the progress of children in receipt of the pupil premium. There was evidence of progress in the majority of the work in pupils' books. Currently, however, teachers are not providing enough opportunities for children to write at length. As a result pupils are not able to fully demonstrate how well they are learning.

The governing body is knowledgeable and highly committed to ensuring that the school becomes good at the next inspection. Following the previous inspection the governing body arranged a review of governance. This process has helped governors to develop a clearer understanding of what the school needs to do to become good. The governing body continues to be supportive of the school, but governors now feel better placed to provide ask challenging questions, particularly around pupil performance. The improved quality of information they receive regarding pupils' progress, standards in lessons and national tests is helping governors hold you and other leaders to account.

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

Following the previous inspection, the local authority has provided support some in-school support for the Early Years Foundation Stage and further training is planned. It is too early to judge the impact of this support. The local authority also offered leadership support to the school, in the form of a 'challenge partner', but the school chose to commission their support from elsewhere. The local authority is planning to

meet in January 2014 to decide how they will monitor the school's progress in addressing the key issues from the previous inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow
Her Majesty's Inspector