

Tribal  
1-4 Portland Square  
Bristol  
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 0117 311 5359  
**Direct F** 0117 315 0430  
**Email:** christina.bannerman@tribalgroup.com

12 December 2013

Jill Ward  
Headteacher  
College Town Junior School  
Branksome Hill Road  
College Town  
Sandhurst  
Berkshire  
GU47 0QE

Dear Mrs Ward

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to College Town Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on Thursday 12 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 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:

- strengthen the post Ofsted action plan by inserting external evaluations to be undertaken by members of the governing body or an additional party on their behalf
- make use of the Ofsted survey and professional development materials for English and mathematics available on the Ofsted website
- attend an Ofsted seminar on effective use of the Pupil Premium
- ensure the local authority support plan is clearly understood by all parties.

## **Evidence**

During the visit meetings were held with you, other senior leaders, and the Chair of the Governing Body. A phone call was held with a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The post Ofsted action plan was evaluated. A range of documentation was scrutinised including current pupil performance data and outcomes of monitoring activities undertaken by school leaders. The arrangements for managing the performance of staff were evaluated. I observed a meeting of teachers levelling and moderating pupils' written outcomes.

## **Context**

Since the September inspection the leadership team has been re-structured. One member of staff is currently absent from school. A new Chair of the Governing Body has been appointed.

## **Main findings**

The school has used its' strengths well to address the issues raised at the last inspection. Strong team work and a tangible sense of pride in the developments achieved since the inspection were evident on my visit. Teacher's confidence in the teaching of writing and the quality of planning sequences of lessons is improving. Moderation meetings are ensuring more consistent teaching is occurring and helping to match work to pupils' needs more accurately. More frequent and robust monitoring by leaders is bringing about rapid improvements to teaching. Training in conducting effective lesson observations is improving the quality and sharpness of monitoring records. Areas for improvement are followed up quickly for any teachers not yet good. Pupil performance data is being used more strategically to match additional adult support to pupils' needs.

The post Ofsted action plan is closely aligned with the areas that require improvements in the school. Actions are set out in a measured and systematic way to ensure that improvement is sustained. A key strength of the plan is the level of detail provided to state what precisely teachers need to do to get better. Interim milestones and targets for improvements in teaching and pupils' progress enable governors to check quickly if the plan is working. The headteacher, local authority advisor and Chair of the Governing Body all recognise the plan would be strengthened further by adding evaluations conducted by an external party.

Governors continue to provide good support and challenge to the school. Since the inspection, more detailed questions are being asked to establish the performance of different groups of pupils. Attendance at senior leadership meetings and undertaking work scrutiny activities is providing governors with first hand evidence of the performance of the school. Information provided by the headteacher ensures

governors keep abreast of how priorities are progressing. Governors' are using their good understanding of pupil performance data to hold the headteacher to account. They are aware of the gaps in performance of those pupils eligible for the pupil premium and other pupils.

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**

In 2012 the local authority support increased resulting in improved pupil outcomes in 2013. When judged to require improvement in September, support for improving the teaching of writing, lesson planning and monitoring of the school was appropriate and positively received. The school has drawn well on this support and that provided by the local Teaching School. The headteacher has received good support to refine the post Ofsted action plan as well as sufficient challenge to review pupil targets and ensure these are appropriately challenging. Additional challenge and support are planned for 2014. However, the school lacks a clear understanding of the overall local authority support package and who commissions any additional training if required. This needs to be resolved.

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

Yours sincerely

Richard Light  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**