

Serco Inspections T 0300 123 1231
20 Colmore Circus Queensway Text Phone: 0161 6188524
Birmingham enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk Direct T: 0121 6799163
B4 6AT www.ofsted.gov.uk Direct email: lewis.mackie1@serco.com

11 December 2013

Emma McGrenaghan
Headteacher
Lynncroft Primary and Nursery School
Garden Road, Lynncroft
Eastwood, Nottingham
NG16 3FZ

Dear Mrs McGrenaghan

Special measures monitoring inspection of Lynncroft Primary and Nursery 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 confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body, one of the local authority's education improvement advisers, and the headteacher of a good primary school who has been supporting Lynncroft Primary School since November 2013. Her Majesty's Inspector met the whole staff team and visited each class with the headteacher. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

A new deputy headteacher will join the school in January 2013. Another deputy headteacher has been seconded by the local authority from the partner primary school to work with this school full-time from January for two terms. Three teachers are currently on family leave.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The appointment of a new deputy headteacher and the current involvement of good practitioners from the partner primary school are timely and welcome interventions. The headteacher and governors are managing some difficult staffing issues and the local authority is helping with expert advice and guidance. The priorities set out in the school improvement plan are the right ones as they focus on raising pupils' achievement and improving the teaching. The headteacher and governors are monitoring the impact of their actions and of the support provided by advisers and the partner school. The school's action plans, rightly, define who is monitoring and evaluating each priority for improvement. However, the measures and actions noted in the plans as achieved, or as being addressed, do not always focus enough on teaching and learning. Now that staffing issues are being resolved, the headteacher spends more time focusing on monitoring teachers' performance. The governing body is preparing to take on more responsibility for interpreting pupil performance data, including that of pupils eligible for additional funding such as the pupil premium. A reconstituted governing body has brought in skilful and experienced governors. It is important at this stage that teachers receive consistent feedback from the headteacher, deputy headteachers and advisers to develop more consistently good teaching and to avoid teachers receiving mixed messages. Governors are now better placed to monitor and review the school's actions so they can check the headteacher's and advisers' evaluations of teaching and learning.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire local authority. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Charalambos Loizou
Her Majesty's Inspector