

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



13 March 2014

Mr Sean Thorpe
Headteacher
Brooklands Primary School
Clumber Street
Long Eaton
Nottingham
NG10 1BX

Dear Mr Thorpe

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Brooklands Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 12 March 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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 January 2014. 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:

- ensure that the school's action plans set out clearly how the school will evaluate its progress

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body, and with a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I toured the school, visiting all classrooms briefly, and held discussions with pupils. The post-inspection school improvement plan was evaluated. I scrutinised other documents, including records from staff

development activities, a sample of the teachers' planning, and a sample of the pupils' work.

Main findings

You have clearly made it a priority to take action quickly on the main issues relating to the quality of teaching. A programme of visits to other schools was set up promptly. As a result, all of the staff have now visited other schools and observed good and outstanding practice. The programme has energised the staff. They have subsequently developed and implemented action plans individually for improving their own teaching.

The pupils are now being provided with more challenging work, particularly in mathematics. This is increasing their motivation to learn and their sense of achievement. You revised the school's marking policy immediately after the inspection. In the sample of work that I saw, there were clear indications of the standards reached by the pupils and comments to tell them what needed improving. However, this practice was not evident in all cases. In the lessons I visited, I saw examples of the teachers checking the pupils' understanding of the learning and giving guidance to the pupils as a result.

It is apparent all around the school that a lot has been done already to increase the pupils' interest in reading and the frequency with which they do so. The pupils are very aware of what has been done and it has had a positive effect on their attitudes to reading. They spoke knowledgeably about and with manifest interest in the range of books they are reading.

There were some examples, both in the pupils' work and the teachers' planning, of opportunities for the pupils to develop their mathematical skills in a range of different subjects. The pupils were also able to describe examples of different subjects in which they had done work to develop their mathematical skills.

The school's post-inspection improvement plans do not set out clearly how the school will evaluate its progress. There are, for example, few measurable success criteria. A formal programme of lesson observations is due to begin this week. In conjunction with a more-rigorous analysis of the pupils progress to be completed next week, that will provide important information to help you evaluate how quickly progress is being made and what still needs to be done.

Arrangements have been made for an external review of governance and dates have been set. The delay in securing the arrangements means, however, that improvements in governance are not yet apparent.

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, appropriately, increased the level of support for the school. This has contributed already to the improvements made in teaching. The local authority has also assisted the school in making the links with other schools, supplementing the school's own contacts, which have been influential in the improvements the teachers have made.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector