

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 01216 799154  
Direct email: [aidan.dunne@serco.com](mailto:aidan.dunne@serco.com)



5 March 2014

Mrs Catrin Parry-Jones  
Headteacher  
West Earlham Junior School  
Scarnell Road  
Norwich  
NR5 8HT

Dear Mrs Parry-Jones

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to West Earlham Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 4 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 November 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:

- clearly define the role of senior and middle leaders in monitoring provision across the school.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of Governors, the deputy headteacher and middle leaders. I also held a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated along with other documentation related to the checks on pupils' work which you have undertaken during this school year. I visited all classrooms and also looked at pupils' English and mathematics books from across the school.

### **Main findings**

You, and the other school leaders I met during my visit, showed a clear understanding of what needs to be done in order for the school to become good as soon as possible. You have responded positively to the previous inspection and acted promptly to address the weaknesses that were identified.

Your school improvement plan is detailed, clear and identifies exactly what needs to be done in order for the school to become good. You have linked the school's priorities for improvement to the desired outcomes for pupils. The school is using assessment procedures effectively to track pupils' progress and set targets for improvement.

Although the leadership team is still relatively new it is rapidly becoming effective. Subject leaders are developing an accurate view about standards and systems are in place to check on the quality of teaching and its impact on pupils' progress. Some leaders are not sufficiently aware of their specific role within the school's procedures for monitoring and evaluation.

You have correctly focused on improving teachers' expertise and an extensive programme of professional development is in place, recently focusing on improving the way teachers and other adults use questioning to challenge and support pupils within lessons.

The work that I saw in pupils' books supports the school's view that teaching is improving rapidly and standards across the school are rising as a result. There has been a recent focus on improving the quality of feedback that teachers provide for pupils. This has resulted in marking that is more detailed and contains specific advice about what has worked well and what needs to improve. Pupils are responding well to this helpful and detailed feedback.

During visits to the classrooms all pupils showed great pride and interest in their work. Displays in classrooms and corridors across the school are of high quality and are a further indication of improving standards.

The governing body has already taken steps to ensure that it is more well-informed about the impact of the measures that the school is taking to raise standards. Governors acknowledge, however, that there is a need for them to develop further the skills which will enable them to check independently on the quality of education and the impact the school is having on pupils' learning. A review of governance is planned in the near future.

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 school has made good use of the external support provided from the local authority in order to improve provision. External consultants have also worked with senior leaders, teachers and teaching assistants and have made a positive contribution to the improvements that are being made.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**