

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 9168
Direct email: narinder.kurana@serco.com



18 March 2014

Miss Rebecca Spooner
Acting Headteacher
Dogsthorpe Infant School
Central Avenue
Dogsthorpe
Peterborough
PE1 4LH

Dear Miss Spooner

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Dogsthorpe Infant School

Following my visit to your school on 17 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 December 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:

- ensure that the strategic governance group concentrates on the findings of your monitoring activities so they can evaluate the impact of your work accurately.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you, the Chair of the Governing Body, two members of staff and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. We visited every class to observe teaching; I spoke to pupils about their lessons and looked at their work. The school action plan was evaluated and I scrutinised minutes of leadership, staff and governor meetings, achievement data,

records of the monitoring of teaching and learning and records of work and planning scrutiny.

Context

The headteacher has been absent through injury since the inspection. You have taken on the full acting headship for the interim period. A new assistant headteacher started in January.

Main findings

You have thoughtfully used good advice from the local authority and information gathered from local school leaders to implement rapid actions and strategies to bring about improvement. Your action plan directly addresses the areas for improvement identified in the inspection in December. Actions are appropriately detailed with precise measures and timescales against which success will be evaluated.

Because plans are developed in partnership with staff, they know what is expected and understand the role they play in improving practice. In particular, you have looked closely at expectations of teaching and have agreed together the five key elements that need to improve first. You have implemented training and coaching for identified staff so that the weaker teaching improves to at least good and where it is already good it moves to outstanding. Feedback from staff shows they are fully involved in the drive to improve and welcome the advice and feedback they are receiving on how to improve their teaching.

You have implemented new systems for analysing and presenting information about pupils' achievement. Staff report that these systems are enabling them to address the learning needs of pupils who are not making enough progress more directly. Your analysis clearly identifies which pupils' progress and attainment needs to improve and using this you are effectively targeting expertise and further support.

Procedures you have established to monitor teaching and learning are rigorous. You are in the process of drawing together comprehensive information from observations, scrutiny of pupils' work and analysis of the progress pupils are making to inform your judgements about the quality of teaching over time. You are taking robust action where improvement is not happening quickly enough. During the inspection, I saw teachers using agreed approaches to check learning in lessons to address any misconceptions and to challenge pupils who are ready to take the next steps in learning.

Governors have responded positively to the requirement to improve by setting up a strategic group which meets with you every fortnight to support decision making and review progress against key priorities. The Chair of Governors has a good understanding of the improvements required and the group are working to ensure you have the staff and resources you need to bring about change. As yet meetings

have not concentrated enough on the findings from your monitoring activities so that governors can measure the impact of your work.

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 held a robust discussion with governors regarding the requirement to improve the school. You have worked closely with the school improvement adviser and used the good advice provided to establish rigorous improvement plans and a comprehensive overview of the quality of teaching. Support given by advisers to improve teaching has enabled less experienced teachers to make rapid improvements to their teaching. The local authority has brokered the support of an experienced associate headteacher who will work with you to implement your planned monitoring arrangements and increase leadership capacity while the interim arrangements are in place.

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

Yours sincerely

Prue Rayner
Her Majesty's Inspector