

CfBT Inspection Services  
Suite 22  
West Lancs Investment Centre  
Maple View  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 9TG

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 618 8524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 01695 566933  
**Direct F** 01695 729320  
**Direct email:** ggleaden@cfbt.com



2 April 2014

Mrs Sallie Elliott  
Headteacher  
Swillington Primary School  
Church Lane  
Swillington  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS26 8DX

Dear Mrs Elliott

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Swillington Primary School, Leeds**

Following my visit to your school on 1 April 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on 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:

- ensure the information provided to governors includes clear and measurable targets about the proportions of pupils making better than expected progress across the school, against which success can be judged over-time
- ensure sufficient detail is included in school action plans about current and future improvement activities to give governors an accurate view of developments in the school

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leaders, a group of pupils, middle leaders, governors and a representative of the local authority. I also met two headteachers from good and outstanding schools that you are working with. I evaluated a range of documentation including: the school improvement plan; data tracking pupils' progress; monitoring reports and records of lesson observations. In addition we undertook a tour of the school to look briefly at teaching and learning and the changes made to provision since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

The effective work carried out by yourself and other senior and middle leaders and staff to improve the school has continued at a pace since the inspection. This is because you have built on the work you started before the last inspection, sharpened your focus and engaged key people in the process. You have helped foster a change in the culture of the school. Staff now feel they are well supported, they are better able to support each other and have a shared understanding of what needs to be done to improve.

Actions to improve teaching and learning have rightly been prioritised. The leadership team and staff have worked together to formulate and carry out a number of improvements. These include making sure that pupils are more aware of their targets and the levels they have achieved. Pupils now view learning as more challenging and lessons as more engaging. They have a better understanding of what they need to do next to improve their own learning. Systems to check on the quality of teaching and learning have been strengthened. There are regular reviews of how pupils are achieving and staff are held to account for the progress their pupils are making. You have ensured that all staff understand what is effective practice and this is embedded in classroom practice. The relentless focus by you and your team on improving teaching quality has resulted in an improvement in the proportion of good or better teaching seen across the school.

The school action plan addresses the areas that need improvement. It has a clear focus on those areas identified in the recent inspection report, these build on areas that were already under development. It has been developed, shared and understood by all staff and governors. Some actions currently being taken by the school are not captured in sufficient detail within the action plan. The plan also lacks sufficient detail about proposed future actions.

The governing body has an increasingly clear understanding of what the school needs to do to improve. Governors, school leaders and local authority officers have formed a Joint Review Group that keeps a tight watching brief on the progress the school is making. The enhanced pupil tracking information now shared with governors enables them to check that planned improvements are making a difference. Further work is required on the information provided to governors about the proportions of pupils making expected and better than expected progress across the school.

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 use of external support has been a strength of the school. Working with local authority officers, a headteacher from a good school within the Trust and a headteacher and staff from an outstanding school has been instrumental in the progress your school has made. They have contributed to securing the accuracy with which the school views itself and provided support for governors, teachers and middle leaders in developing their roles.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Brown  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**