

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231
Fax: 0300 123 3159
Minicom: 0161 618 8524
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Deanwood Ducklings & Extended
Services
Deanwood Primary Education
Technology School
Long Catlis Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9TX

Our Reference 103802

Dear Deanwood Ducklings & Extended Services Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Sue Taylor , monitored your provision on 13/05/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 14/02/2014, we sent you a notice to improve.

During the monitoring visit, the inspector discussed with you the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She looked at relevant documents, observed interactions between the staff and children, spoke to you and to staff members. The inspector spoke to the local authority advisor who attended the visit and feedback.

You have developed clear and detailed action plans to address the issues raised at your last inspection. This has been successful in helping you and the staff team move forward. You have had full support of the local authority and valued the support they gave to improve your practices. The local authority advisor confirmed that the staff team were very receptive.

You have improved the key-person arrangements to encourage all children to form a trusting bond with a carer who is focused on meeting their learning and care needs. The key-person groups are smaller and as such, easier for staff to manage children's individual needs. Buddy key persons have been introduced for when a child's key person is not working. This helps ensure children's personal care needs are managed by as few people as necessary. Staff are able to identify quickly if their key children are not engaged in purposeful, meaningful activities and act accordingly. The smaller groups mean that staff are interacting more with their key children and improvements in their learning have been noted. Observations of children's well-

being and involvement showed the benefits that higher staff engagement has. Parents are now informed about who their child's key person is and who is covering absences, such as sickness. The recent questionnaires sent to parents, demonstrate positive responses to the new system. Parents know who to go to discuss their child's care needs and are receiving improved detail about their child's learning.

The development of your self-evaluation process is ongoing. The last inspection report recognised that you were able to identify and prioritise areas of weakness but that insufficient action was being taken to promote improvements. You are clearly identifying areas for improving practice. The revised written action plans help ensure that action is taken and this is routinely evaluated to ensure the areas for development are being implemented. You have taken positive action to prioritise and address improvements as identified in self-evaluation.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the setting has taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be a full inspection.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your setting. If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Nick Hudson
National Director, Early Education