

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

T 0300 1231231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566863
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
jbennett@cfbt.com



15 July 2014

Ms Cheryl Edge
Headteacher
Worth Valley Primary School
Bracken Bank Crescent
Keighley
West Yorkshire
BD22 7AX

Dear Ms Edge

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Worth Valley Primary School, Bradford

Following my visit to your school on 14 July 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 May 2014. At its previous section 5 inspection the school was also judged to require improvement. My visit was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- engage with parents to ensure that their views are taken account of in the schools' plans for improvement and communicate clearly the measures the school is taking so that parents are more confident in the quality of education provided
- ensure governors have a clear understanding of what the school needs to do to get to good and what part they need to play in helping it get there
- refine improvement plans so that planned actions can be evaluated efficiently and further actions identified in a timely manner
- forge stronger partnerships with good and outstanding schools that will enable the school to improve by sharing best practice and validating the schools' assessment of its own performance

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, school governors, the school middle leadership team, a small group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. A brief visit was made to all classrooms. The school's action plan was evaluated.

Main findings

An effective plan to bring about the necessary school improvement is not in place and therefore impact is not yet being seen in classrooms. The school is putting into place plans for September 2014 to ensure areas for improvement raised at the last inspection are addressed but Governors have not been effectively involved in the development of these plans. School leaders have been working hard since the inspection including a restructuring of staffing, continuing work to secure teaching that is at least good and to tackle under performance where it exists. School leaders recognise the challenges that this brings and have devised monitoring procedures to ensure they maintain a strong focus on these priorities. Some staffing difficulties are impacting on the schools' ability to develop and embed best practice.

School senior leaders have built on the work started with middle leaders before the last inspection in order to develop their understanding of their role and what they are accountable for. They now work confidently as a team and have developed plans for their own areas of responsibility. A programme of staff training has been started with a focus on improving the teaching of numeracy and improving the presentation in pupils' work. An audit of provision identified further areas for development including some possible gaps in teacher knowledge. School leaders agree that this work has yet to see a significant impact in lessons.

Pupils have a positive view of the school. Some said that this view is not shared by their parents. Senior leaders, governors and staff are aware of parental concerns. Plans to engage with, and build confidence with parents have not been given sufficient priority and this situation needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency. Governors agree that this is the case.

Governors do not have a clear understanding of how the school will become good, or how they will check on the improvements that are planned. This is because school leaders and governors have not worked closely together on drawing up plans to ensure that the school can make the rapid and sustained progress that is necessary. The school's action plan is not fit for purpose. It identifies the areas that need improvement and appropriate actions to address them, but timelines and targets to indicate intended outcomes in the short and longer term are not precise. For instance, the measures to be used by governors to evaluate the actions taken by the school have an insufficient focus on the proportions of pupils making expected and more than expected progress across the school. In addition, although a monitoring system is in place to check on what is happening, the timing of these activities is not clear. This makes it difficult for governors to know what the school is doing and how well the school may be improving over time.

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 provided appropriate and proportionate levels of support for the school. They know the school well and meet with school leaders regularly to review the performance of the school.

The headteacher has secured additional support from consultants to help teachers improve their practice through focussed coaching activities. However, links with other schools to enable rapid improvement are not secure. The school, as a matter of urgency, should secure links with good and outstanding local schools so that staff and school leaders can share best practice and secure judgements about how well the school is progressing.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Brown

Her Majesty's Inspector