

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:** 0121 679 9146  
**Direct email:** [clare.benson@serco.com](mailto:clare.benson@serco.com)



15 October 2014

Mr Luke Bulpett  
Executive headteacher  
Kingswood Infant School  
Clay Hill Road  
Basildon  
SS16 5DE

Dear Mr Bulpett

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Kingswood Infant School**

Following my visit to your school on 14 October 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 June 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. At its previous section 5 inspection the school was also judged to require improvement.

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:

- incorporate more quantifiable measures into the school's improvement plan so that school leaders, including governors, are able to evaluate the impact of actions taken
- further develop the policy for checking on the work of the school so that all school leaders play an active role.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, I held meetings with you and the deputy headteacher, four senior leaders and five members of the Governing Body to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. I also met with a representative of the local authority and the director of the Basildon Educational Services Trust to discuss the support that

has been provided for the school. The school development plan was evaluated along with other documentation. I carried out short visits to all classrooms with you and looked at work in pupils' books.

## **Context**

You are the headteacher of the attached junior school and you were appointed as executive headteacher of Kingswood Infant School in September 2014. Plans are at an advanced stage for the infant and junior schools to amalgamate in September 2015. Since the previous inspection, one teacher has left the school and a new teacher has been appointed.

## **Main findings**

During the visit you conveyed a clear understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses and you have acted promptly to address the areas for improvement identified at the recent inspection. You have already put in place systems for checking the school's work more effectively. Along with other leaders you have observed teaching across the school and you have made regular checks on the quality of pupils' work. You recognise that this process now needs to be further developed so that you review all aspects of the school's work in a systematic way and identify the exact role of all school leaders within this process.

Following the previous inspection an improvement plan was created which clearly identified the school's ambitions to raise achievement by improving the quality of teaching and learning. The plan identifies the specific actions that you intend to take in order to raise standards across the school. However, the plan does not currently make reference to quantifiable targets which would enable school leaders, including governors, to review progress.

Some of the actions you have taken are already having a positive impact. For example, a recent focus on the teaching of phonics, which included staff training and a briefing for parents, is already resulting in more effective teaching and improved rates of learning. You have also encouraged parents to get more involved in their children's education. Home school reading logs have been introduced and on the day of this inspection an 'open evening' was held for parents to visit classrooms and look at the work that pupils have produced this term.

The governing body has a good range of expertise. Governors are ambitious for the school and keen to ensure that the necessary improvements are made as quickly as possible. Following the inspection, they put together an action plan to address the weaknesses that were identified which related to their role. They have recently accessed training which has helped them to further develop their knowledge and understanding about their role. As one governor said 'we now feel less reliant on the headteacher to tell us how things are going'. Governors are confident that systems are now in place which will help ensure that they access relevant information about

the school's work. Closer reference to performance data will ensure that governors are able to focus on the core business of improving standards.

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 a good level of support and challenge to the school. They commissioned an executive headteacher to lead the school during the summer term 2014 and she has continued to support the school this term, providing good support for school leaders in relation to the proposed merger.

The school now makes good use of the support available through local partnerships, which have provided a range of training opportunities and support and challenge for staff and school leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**