

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 9158  
**Direct email:** rachel.dayan@serco.com



4 February 2015

Mr A Stancliffe  
Headteacher  
The Reginald Mitchell Primary School  
Congleton Road  
Butt Lane  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST7 1NA

Dear Mr Stancliffe

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to The Reginald Mitchell Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 2 February 2015, 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 October 2014. 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.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with the head teacher, middle managers, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plans were evaluated. The report from the external review of Governance was noted, alongside recent governing body minutes. A brief visit to several lessons across all stages took place with the head teacher. Some examples of pupils' work were scrutinised.

## **Context**

A seconded deputy head teacher has been assigned to the school by the local authority, pending the recruitment of a substantive deputy. A Local Leader in Education (LLE) has been linked with the school.

## **Main findings**

The local authority has acted quickly to improve the capacity of leadership and management at the school. Governors had already considered the need for a deputy head teacher, but were unable to recruit a suitable candidate to the advertised post last term. Support and training for middle leaders has started well, allowing them to develop their monitoring and evaluation skills. These leaders need more time for them to do that work, which should happen shortly. The development plan has begun to track success against various action strands, with helpful explanations where targets have not yet been met. Data collection has been formalised, and shows more pupils achieving as expected. However, the reliability of this progress data needs careful moderation, using external school partners. Data reports place too much emphasis on the proportions of pupils with special needs and or disabilities in each class, and not enough on how well these and other pupils are achieving.

In lessons, there is some evidence of work pitched to different ranges of ability in general, but not necessarily to every pupil's understanding. Most pupils should start their main activity more quickly, especially the more able. Marking is improving, with clearer instructions to pupils on what to do next. Usually, pupils are responding. Standards of writing remain variable and often low, and are rightly a focus for all teachers. There are some good examples of extended writing in other subjects, for example in science.

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's actions since the inspection has been helpful, quickly targeting external support for senior leadership, training for senior and middle managers, and support for governors. Further training for governors on performance data, and on triangulating summative data with other evidence is planned. The external review of governance did not evaluate the effectiveness of governance or make any recommendations; it has not moved governance forward.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Staffordshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cartwright  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

cc. Chair of the Governing Body  
cc. Local authority