

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

Direct T: 0121 679 9163
Direct email: lewis.mackie1@serco.com



23 February 2015

Fiona Cook
Langley Mill Junior School
Bailey Brook Crescent
Langley Mill
Nottingham
NG16 4FZ

Dear Mrs Cook

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Langley Mill Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 20 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. At the school's previous section 5 inspection, in February 2013, 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:

- sharpen the school improvement planning documents so that Governors are able to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of actions taken by staff on improving outcomes for pupils.

Evidence

At the start of the inspection I was given a tour of the school by three of your senior students. During the inspection visit, two meetings were held with the headteacher and assistant headteacher to discuss progress since the last inspection. I also met with the subject leaders for literacy and mathematics alongside a teacher for the deaf who also has responsibility for religious education across the school. The local authority's school improvement officer met with me to discuss her knowledge of the

school. A separate meeting was held with one member of the governing body. I conducted a second tour of the school with the headteacher and assistant headteacher during which we looked at a sample of pupils' books. You provided me with school improvement documents which I was able to scrutinise during the visit. I completed a check of the school's single central register of staff suitability checks.

Context

Since the previous inspection one teacher has left the school. Another will leave at Easter. You have replaced these teachers and also increased the number of staff so that an additional class can be created. One teacher is currently completing a phased return to work after a period of absence. The assistant headteacher will shortly be going on maternity leave and you have been proactive in seconding an experienced replacement to work with you during the absence. In order to strengthen leadership you have recently appointed two members of staff into middle management positions.

Main findings

All members of the school community spoken to during my visit expressed their confidence in your ability to lead the school through the improvement journey. Leaders and managers, including governors, and all staff were able to demonstrate a strong sense of moral purpose in their pursuit of making Langley Mill a good or outstanding school.

A revised school improvement plan was put in place immediately after the section 5 inspection in October 2014.

Improving the quality of teaching is rightly your highest priority. You have already demonstrated the success of your work to improve the behaviour of pupils in lessons, to develop teachers' questioning skills and to increase the level of challenge for the most-able pupils. You have clear plans in place to improve the consistency of work undertaken by teaching assistants. We agreed that you will improve the performance management arrangements for these members of staff and that their targets will have an explicit link to improving outcomes for pupils.

At the last inspection you were asked to ensure that teachers understood how to make best use of specialist equipment to support the learning of deaf and hearing-impaired pupils. You have acted without hesitation to make certain all staff have the necessary competencies to do this. During the inspection I observed effective use of such equipment

During my meeting with subject leaders I was provided with an action plan related to improving pupils' achievement in mathematics. This area for improvement was identified at the last inspection and you have started work on weaving the

development of mathematical skills into the wider curriculum, alongside focussed monitoring of teachers' planning and targeted work with pupils.

Leaders have thoughtfully started to create further opportunities for pupils to learn about multi-cultural communities which make up modern Britain by creating links with partner schools and organisations. During the inspection pupils spoke with pride about their work regarding different religions.

The essential actions related to leadership and management have been addressed by the improved level of challenge from governors and the creation of revised school improvement planning documents. I was clear in my feedback to you that these plans would benefit from further work so that governors can use them even more effectively as a framework for holding leaders to account.

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 given much useful support and guidance over a sustained period of time. The school is identified by the local authority as a priority school, which results in an increased level of support. A recently established 'team around the school' shows early signs of having a significant impact on pupils' progress. The local authority representative demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of the schools' strengths and barriers to improvement. The local authority could strengthen its offer by supporting leaders at Langley Mill to produce school improvement documents which include sharp monitoring and evaluation tools.

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

Yours sincerely

Phil Harrison
Associate Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Chair of the Governing Body
- Local authority