

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 9169  
**Direct email:** [mathew.mitchell@serco.com](mailto:mathew.mitchell@serco.com)



16 March 2015

Miriam Jones  
Headteacher  
Reepham Primary School  
School Road  
Reepham  
Norwich  
NR10 4JP

Dear Mrs Jones

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Reepham Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 13 March 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 December 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 you, four members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. An opportunity to walk the school with you enabled me to see pupils at work in lessons.

### **Context**

Since the last inspection, a new deputy headteacher has been appointed. One teacher has left the school following the return of a substantive teacher from maternity leave.

## **Main findings**

You have taken prompt action to tackle the issues raised in the last inspection by putting in place a detailed plan to improve the school. You and your governors feel that there is nothing preventing the school from being judged at least good at its next inspection.

Your action plan rightly prioritises improving teaching, particularly addressing weaknesses in mathematics and pupils' handwriting, and ensuring that pupils of different abilities are given suitably challenging work. Plans include clear milestones and numerical targets to check regularly the rate of improvement being made. Regular training and new teaching resources are enabling staff to develop their teaching of mathematics. Some staff have also had the opportunity to visit other schools to observe and learn from their good practice.

You are working closely with the local authority to improve the accuracy of your assessment data to enable staff to monitor more closely the progress made by each pupil. Your latest data shows that the percentage of Year 6 pupils making expected progress in English and in mathematics is high. The proportion of Year 6 pupils meeting or exceeding national expectations in mathematics is predicted to be higher this year than in 2014 due to the impact of recent training and the increased expectations of staff, but it will remain lower than that achieved in English.

A cycle of lesson monitoring, learning walks and scrutiny of pupils' work is giving you a more accurate view of the quality of teaching and is helping you to identify the further training needs of staff. A learning walk with you confirmed that in lessons, new resources to teach mathematics are being used regularly and pupils have weekly opportunities to improve their handwriting. Teachers are setting pupils different tasks to do to make sure they are always suitably challenged.

The actions to improve leadership and management have been strengthened. The recent appointment of a deputy headteacher provides additional capacity to drive improvement. You have assumed joint responsibility for leading improvements in mathematics to ensure that newly introduced policy and procedures become firmly embedded. You are also maintaining detailed evidence files to illustrate the progress being made in addressing the priorities in your plans for improvement. Your leaders of literacy and numeracy have attended training to increase their effectiveness in raising overall achievement. Some of your staff recently attended training provided by Ofsted on 'getting to good' and improving the teaching of mathematics.

An external review of governance is under way, led by the local authority. The Governing Body feels that the last inspection has helped them to focus on what needs improving. They show an improved understanding of their role in supporting and challenging you and other school leaders. A governors' improvement board is now in place to monitor the progress made in securing improvements to the priorities listed in the school's action plan.

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 links forged with the local authority prior to the inspection, including joining the Norfolk Good To Great initiative have been maintained and built upon to ensure that the school receives the support and challenge it needs to help it improve. You value the regular training in managing data systematically, and the additional training for teachers and governors, brokered by the local authority. You now submit assessment data to the local authority each half-term to enable them to monitor the improvements you are making and help you identify where further support is needed.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**