

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

T 0300 123 1231

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

Direct T 01695 566850

Direct F 01695 729320

Direct email: dmccarrick@cfbt.com



27 April 2015

Mrs Teresa Brady
Headteacher
Sidmouth Primary School
Sidmouth Street
Hull
HU5 2JY

Dear Mrs Brady

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Sidmouth Primary School, City of Kingston upon Hull

Following my visit to your school on 22 April 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 January 2015. 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. The school should take further action to:

- strengthen the post Ofsted action plan so that it contains milestones at regular intervals so that you and others can check if the school is moving forward appropriately and that the interventions provided make a difference
- ensure that following reviews done by middle leaders, ways forward are always identified
- make sure that all groups of pupils in all classes are always set work which provides them with appropriate challenge, especially the most-able
- continue to provide regular opportunities for all pupils to write during different subjects.

Evidence

During the inspection I held meetings with you, your deputy and assistant headteacher. You took me on a tour of the school so that I could observe pupils working in their classrooms and I looked at some of their literacy, numeracy and topic books. I also met with the Chair and two other members of the Governing Body. We discussed assessment data for the current pupils and I also evaluated the post Ofsted improvement plan.

Main findings

The inspection in January 2015 identified issues that had and some that continue to adversely affect Sidmouth School. However, you do not use these matters as an excuse and it is apparent that you, your colleagues and members of the governing body are determined to improve the outcomes for all pupils swiftly. Increasing the frequency and the way that lessons are observed provide you with clear and regular information so that training and support can be given to those teachers who need it most. Your post Ofsted action plan is a working document but at present it contains a list of actions to be done and some general statements. You agreed that it needs to be improved by adding some clear targets so that governors and other external reviewers can check if you are on track to achieve these in each area. At present, although you review the quality of teaching and link this to the outcomes for all pupils groups, it is not clear if the school is on the right track within the allotted timeframe.

Initial information gathered at the end of last term, suggests that pupils in Year 6 will make better progress and reach higher standards than for pupils at the end of Year 6 last year. The pace of improvement is not so evident for pupils at the end of Year 2, however they are on track to do better than Year 2 pupils last year. It is also encouraging that pupils are likely to do better in the phonics test this year compared to those who took the test last year. These improvements are attributed to better challenge for all groups of pupils and helpful marking so that pupils know what to do in order to improve their work. When we toured classrooms groups of pupils, especially those who are new to learning English, receive different work. It is important though that the most able pupils are always challenged appropriately. Pupils are also given regular opportunities to write at length in different subjects. Despite this, improving the quantity and quality of writing remains a challenge for many pupils.

The middle leaders to whom I spoke are fully involved in monitoring their subject and providing regular updates for you and members of the governing body. They observe lessons and check books frequently. It would be helpful if these documents always identify ways forward following this work.

I may carry out further monitoring inspections and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

Sidmouth School is part of the West Hull Cooperative Trust group of schools and this enables staff to meet regularly to discuss a range of issues. Staff appreciate meeting with others to monitor pupils' work and to discuss whether there is sufficient evidence to support emerging judgements as to the progress being made by different pupils. Local authority officers check the progress being made during their regular visits.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young

Her Majesty's Inspector