

Tribal  
Kings Orchard, One Queen  
Street, Bristol  
BS2 0HQ

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T 0117 311 5323  
Direct email: [suzy.smith@tribalgroup.com](mailto:suzy.smith@tribalgroup.com)



11 May 2015

Dr R Neeves  
Headteacher  
Speenhamland Primary School  
Pelican Lane  
Newbury  
RG14 1NU

Dear Dr Neeves

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

Following my visit to your school on 11 May 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. 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:

- add milestones to the school improvement plan so that governors can check your actions are helping to improve the school
- develop other leaders so they can help you to improve teaching
- make sure information about pupils' progress and attendance is presented clearly so teachers, leaders and governors can check improvements are being made.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, I met with you, the deputy headteacher, other leaders, governors and a representative from the local authority to discuss the action taken

since the last inspection. I visited classes with you and the deputy headteacher, looked at work in pupils' books and reviewed school documentation.

## **Main findings**

You have taken purposeful action to tackle the areas identified in the previous inspection. The school improvement plan explains clearly how you expect to make the necessary changes. However, it is not clear how you, and governors, will know your actions have improved pupils' achievement over time.

Governors' understanding of their role is improving further. They have responded positively to the recommendations from the review of governance. They have organised training to ensure they have the necessary skills to hold you to account. Their visits to school now focus well on areas for improvement.

In some subjects, for example mathematics, the subject leader demonstrates they understand their role and know what to do to improve teaching and learning. In other subjects, although leaders are enthusiastic, they lack the skills and knowledge to help you to make improvements.

Mathematics teaching is improving. You have made a number of changes to the way it is taught, including introducing a new mathematics scheme to help teachers to know what to teach and when. This is helping to improve consistency across the school. Teachers are now using practical equipment more frequently to help pupils to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts. Where this is working well, pupils are able to record their work in a variety of ways, using the method which is most helpful to them. You rightly identified that there is more to do to improve all teachers' subject knowledge and ability to explain concepts.

Teachers are beginning to meet the needs of pupils more closely. You have implemented a new way of checking how much pupils understand at the end of each lesson and this is helping teachers to plan more carefully to meet pupils' needs. Although this information about day-to-day progress is easy to understand, the information about progress over time is not. This means that teachers, leaders and governors cannot easily interpret the information about pupils' achievement.

Your work to improve attendance has brought mixed results. I am pleased to see that the attendance of individual pupils and some groups of pupils is improving because of your focused work with them. However, it is disappointing that overall attendance has fallen slightly compared to the same time last year.

Ofsted 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**

The local authority provides relevant and useful support. The review of governance and how the school uses the pupil premium grant have clearly explained what actions need to be taken to be more effective in these areas. The school is using this information to drive improvements. Reports from local authority advisors provide accurate feedback about lessons and work in books, but the school is not acting upon this information as quickly as it should.

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

Yours sincerely

Louise Adams  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**