

Prospects Learning Services
Prospects Services LTD
19 Elmfield Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 1LT

T 08456 40 40 40
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 020 8315 1250
Direct F 020 8315 1279
Sheena.MacDonald@ofsted.gov.uk



17 June 2008

Mrs Sue Hine
The Headteacher
Spring Park Primary School
Bridle Road
Shirley
Croydon
CR0 8HQ

Dear Mrs Hine

Ofsted monitoring of schools with a Notice to Improve

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 11 June 2008, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please pass on my thanks to the pupils and staff who met with me, to the chair of governors and to colleagues from the local authority (LA) for the time they gave.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 1-2 November 2007, the school was asked to: ensure that leadership and management are more effective; raise the quality of teaching and learning and improve attendance.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievement.

Following the inspection in November 2007, further disruption in leadership and management meant that, despite good work carried out by the assistant head teachers with well targeted support from local authority colleagues, the pace of change was too slow. Since the new headteacher hit the ground running in April the pace has speeded up. The leadership team are revitalised and the governors much more involved and aware of what needs to be done. There has been an increased clarity of direction and a sharper focus on rooting out inadequate or complacent practice. A key area of weakness was the Foundation Stage. The leadership team has acted rigorously to transform this important part of the school. Close monitoring, good quality support and changes in staffing have resulted in provision which is at least satisfactory and has the potential to be better than that.

There has been a much needed overhaul of intervention and support work which has resulted in some groups of pupils making good progress in a short time. Much remains to be done to ensure consistency across all classes and to ensure that the many classroom assistants are providing top quality support to the children who need it most. Rigorous monitoring and better use of assessment information means that the school has a very clear idea of its strengths and weaknesses. Plans for improvement have been simplified with a strategic plan backed up by a short term plan which is very focused on raising achievement.

There has been effective whole school action in key areas where obvious gaps existed and the school has implemented improved systems for planning, marking, classroom display and target setting. Teachers now have a better understanding of attainment levels and the use of assessment to plan the next steps in learning. Although some inconsistencies remain in the quality of teaching and learning, the majority of the teaching is at least satisfactory with much that is good. Pupil progress has been, and in some classes still is, too slow with many pupils not achieving as well as they should. However, the improvements in teaching and learning are bearing fruit with more pupils beginning to make accelerated progress.

Attendance statistics show a very strong correlation between high attendance and good quality teaching and learning. As improvements have taken place across the school making lessons more interesting, so attendance rates have also improved.

The Local Authority is providing strong, well targeted support. LA colleagues have worked closely with the school to provide both the support and the challenge needed to move the school on.

The pace of recent change has been very rapid and the benefits are beginning to show in improved pupil progress and attitudes. There is still a lot to do to help some catch up but, after a slow start, the school is now moving rapidly in the right direction.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Sheena MacDonald
Her Majesty's Inspector