

PROTECT - INSPECTION

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Mrs Carole Spruce
Humberston Cloverfields Primary School
St Thomas Close
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Grimsby
DN36 4HS

Dear Mrs Spruce

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 31 March 2009, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please thank the many teachers and pupils who spoke to me during the day, particularly the group of Year 6 pupils who gave up some of their lunchtime to talk to me.

There have been several changes of staff since the last inspection and a new leader has been appointed for Key Stage 1.

As a result of the inspection on 4–5 March 2008, the school was asked to

1. Raise standards and improve rates of progress in Key Stages 1 and 2, particularly in mathematics, writing and for the more able pupils.
2. Improve the quality of teaching across the school so that more of it is consistently good or better and provides greater challenge for pupils of all levels of ability.
3. Improve the effectiveness of the school's systems and procedures for monitoring and evaluating the impact of its work on pupils.

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

Standards are rising in both key stages. In 2008 national tests Year 2 pupils performed in line with the national average in mathematics, just below average in writing and just above in reading. Tests in Year 6 show that standards are above average in English and science and average in mathematics. Current tracking data show that pupils' progress is accelerating in both key stages and that all pupils, including those with higher ability, are performing better. Standards are rising in

mathematics and the school has benefited from effective advice and support from the local authority mathematics adviser.

The school has made outstanding progress on the issue of improving teaching and learning. Lessons provide pace, variety and challenge. Many activities are timed and pupils respond well to teaching that is often innovative, creative and designed to promote curiosity and enjoyment. There are many opportunities for paired and group work, peer and self-assessment and discussion and reflection. The 'big Write' strategy has successfully promoted pupils' enjoyment of writing so that they are making better progress. Pupils interviewed during the visit said that they are 'never bored' and that they know they are making better progress. Marking and assessment are strengths of teaching and all pupils know their individual targets. A scrutiny of marking shows that there is effective dialogue between teachers and pupils. Pupils are well aware of how close they are to achieving short- and long-term targets set for them.

A key strategy in accelerating progress and improving teaching has been the development of a creative and stimulating curriculum. All the staff have enthusiastically looked at ways of making the curriculum more exciting and relevant to real life situations. For example, on the afternoon of the inspection, pupils in Years 5 and 6 were welcoming their parents to a European market to show some of their recent learning in geography and modern foreign languages. On the same day artists were helping pupils in Years 3 and 4 to make a wooden spider to illustrate their work on 'Charlotte's Web'.

The senior leadership team have responded positively and effectively to the last inspection and put together a highly detailed action plan to address the issues raised and to further improve the school. Teachers are working together as a dynamic and creative team. The headteacher has a clear view of the strengths and weaknesses of provision and is accurate in her judgements. She is ably supported by the deputy headteacher. There is an effective and rigorous monitoring process to check pupils' progress frequently and to ensure that actions taken to improve provision are effective and evaluated properly.

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

Yours sincerely

Judith Straw

Additional Inspector