

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

T 08456 40 40 40  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T 01695 566930  
Direct F 01695 729320

21 October 2009

Mrs Lorraine Alexander  
North Fawdon Primary School  
Brotherlee Road  
Fawdon  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE3 2SL

Dear Mrs Alexander

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave me when I visited your school on 20 and 21 October 2009 and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Could you please pass on my thanks to the pupils, teachers and chair of governors?

Since the previous inspection there have been significant changes to staff. An assistant headteacher has left the school and a senior member of staff is covering that post until January 2010. One teacher has retired and a newly qualified teacher has been appointed. A new teacher has been appointed to lead the Early Years Foundation Stage and another teacher has been appointed in the school specialist facility for pupils with special educational needs. The school roll has declined from 159 to 124 children. Due to the small number of pupils in Year 5 and 6, these classes are now taught together.

As a result of the inspection on 18 October 2008, the school was asked to:

*1. Provide a greater variety of teaching and learning styles to meet the needs of all pupils.*

In the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1, a more varied approach to teaching has been introduced. However, in Key Stage 2 teaching and learning styles do not meet the needs of all pupils. A review carried out by the school with the support of the local authority in May 2009 identified that a high proportion of teaching and learning in Key Stage 2 was inadequate. Evidence gathered during this visit indicates that significant groups of pupils in Key Stage 2 are not making the progress of which they are capable in lessons.

*2. Use information more effectively to adapt the curriculum to build progressively on pupils' knowledge and skills.*

More information is now collected about pupils' knowledge and skills. In the Early Years Foundation Stage this is now being used more effectively to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils. However, in Key Stage 2 information is not being used to build progressively on pupils' knowledge and skills. The local authority review identified that the curriculum was not well adapted to meet pupils' needs in Key Stage 2. A significant number of lessons and activities observed during this visit were not sufficiently adapted to meet the individual needs of pupils.

*3. Sharply focus monitoring activities on the impact of provision on the standards which pupils reach.*

The number and scope of monitoring activities have increased. However, these activities have had little impact on standards. For example, the school target for the proportion of Year 6 pupils attaining Level 4 in mathematics in 2009 was set at 65%; the actual proportion attaining this was only 36%. Standards in English remain low and the target levels were missed by 10%.

*4. Improve the organisation of the staff in the Early Years Foundation Stage unit to ensure that all children have equal access to high quality learning opportunities.*

A new leader of this unit has been appointed. Children's levels of skills and development on entry to Nursery continue to be well below that which is typical of three-year-olds, particularly in communication, language and literacy. The school is beginning to organise staff in a more focused way to ensure children make better progress in their understanding of language and literacy.

Pastoral care and behaviour was judged to be good at the time of the previous inspection. However, levels of behaviour declined last year, resulting in an increased number of exclusions. In some lessons pupils are inattentive and restless. This is particularly the case when work is not challenging or well matched to individual needs. The procedures to safeguard children were judged to be secure at the time of the previous inspection and continue to follow government regulations.

The school judges, in its most recent self-evaluation that its overall effectiveness is inadequate, outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are inadequate and the school's capacity for sustained improvement is inadequate. The local authority has provided extensive support and recognises that significant improvement is necessary.

I am of the opinion that despite the best efforts of the headteacher and governing body the school has made inadequate progress in making consistent improvement and overall there has been inadequate progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Due to the serious concerns I have about current standards and the progress of the school I recommend that a return visit is necessary. I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely  
Andrew Johnson  
Her Majesty's Inspector