

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



10 December 2009

C.Yates
Headteacher
Akrotiri Primary School
RAF Akrotiri
BFPO 57
Cyprus

Dear Mrs Yates

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 9 December, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please also pass on my thanks to the children and Group Captain Bessell for making time to talk to me.

There have been significant changes in leadership since the inspection. A new headteacher and Foundation Stage leader have been in post since September 2009. They are both on a temporary contract pending the recruitment of permanent postholders.

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

- Improve achievement and standards in English and mathematics across the school, especially for the higher attaining pupils
- Improve the quality of provision and children's achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Improve the impact of leadership at all levels on teaching and learning across the school
- Improve the guidance that pupils receive on how to improve their achievement.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made satisfactory progress in making improvements and satisfactory progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

The school, with support from Service Children's Education, started to improve provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage soon after the inspection. Further improvements are being introduced by the new leader, therefore children aged 3 to 5 years are now receiving a much better quality of education and care. Progress in tackling the other three areas for improvement was slow until the new headteacher started. She has quickly gained the full support of the staff and, together, they are



significantly accelerating the rate of improvement in teaching and pupils' progress this term.

Standards at the end of Key Stage 2 improved in 2009 and were above average in all subjects except reading, which was average. School data indicates that standards are improving further this year and that performance in reading is as good as that in other subjects. Pupils make good progress in most classes, which is a significant improvement since the inspection. A greater number of higher attaining pupils are making good progress since September. This is because the school has much more robust methods for identifying all the pupils who need additional challenge and teachers are more skilled in planning lessons that meet their needs.

Education in the Early Years Foundation Stage has improved for all children because teachers and teaching assistants are working much more effectively together. Indoor and outdoor areas have been combined and give all children access to stimulating experiences linked to every area of their learning. There is a much better balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activity. Assessment has improved and evidence of children's progress is used well to inform short and long-term planning.

Leaders at all levels have worked together effectively since September to improve teaching and the use of assessment. As a result, the quality of teaching has improved so that inadequate teaching is almost totally eradicated. Recently formed senior and middle leadership teams give the headteacher strong support by coaching colleagues and demonstrating good practice, and they are quickly developing their skills in monitoring teaching and giving constructive feedback.

The quality of guidance to pupils has improved since the inspection. Pupils have clear targets which they use well and marking often gives them helpful information on how to improve their work. The use of questioning during lessons to give pupils guidance is an area that requires further development.

In the short time that they have been established, senior and middle leadership teams are already demonstrating a satisfactory capacity to bring about further improvements. The headteacher is leading the way by providing a high level of challenge combined with good support and clear guidance. The staff respond well to this, therefore there is a strong sense of shared responsibility for improving the school further. Underpinning the improvements so far is a well-focused action plan informed by accurate analysis of pupils' outcomes. The quality of data used to inform evaluation and planning has improved considerably since the inspection. The School Governance Committee adds to the school's capacity by providing good support to the new headteacher.

Service Children's Education has provided strong support since the inspection. They keep the school under close review and provide clear feedback on where further improvement is required. They provide support which is well tailored to Akrotiri's needs.



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

John Rutherford

Her Majesty's Inspector





INVESTOR IN PEOPLE