

Tribal Education  
1-4 Portland Square  
Bristol  
BS2 8RR

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

Direct T 0845 123 6001  
Direct F 0845 123 6002  
email:sarah.cartlidge@tribalgroup.com

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Mrs Williams  
Headteacher  
South Norwood Primary School  
Crowther Road  
South Norwood  
London  
SE25 5QP

Dear Mrs Williams

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school with Joan Hewitt, HMI on 24 June 2010, 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 chair of governors and the pupils who gave their time to speak to us.

As a result of the inspection on 24 June 2008, the school was asked to:

- secure consistently good teaching
- secure consistently effective marking
- improve punctuality.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made:

good progress in making improvements

and

good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Since the last inspection the school has continued on its path of improvement. Standards in Key Stage 2, which were below average, have risen sharply. In 2009 standards in English were broadly in line with the national average while those in mathematics and science, while improving well, remained below average. The school's internal monitoring information indicates that in 2010 each subject will meet or exceed national expectations. Following the inspection, Key Stage 1 standards initially fell but have since recovered somewhat, reflecting improved accuracy in teacher assessments.

The large majority of pupils make at least expected progress during their time at the school. The school's monitoring information indicates that pupil progress is tracked well and triggers effective interventions and the refocusing of resources where relative underperformance by groups is identified.

One reason for the much-improved progress of pupils is the improved quality of teaching. Inspectors carried out joint lesson observations with senior leaders and agreed with their judgements. The majority of teaching is now good. Most lessons are interesting because teachers provide a variety of activities that engage pupils and promote good levels of motivations. Pupils' good attitude and behaviour in lessons make a strong contribution to their success. Teachers' good subject knowledge lends confidence to their delivery. Monitoring of teaching has given senior leaders an accurate view of the strengths and areas for development of individual staff.

The assessment of pupils' work has improved well from a situation where teachers were unclear about the requirements for work at different levels. Teachers are now confident in assessing pupils' performance and use this information to plan for appropriate learning tasks that enable pupils to make progress. Pupils know the level at which they are working. They have a general understanding of their targets but sometimes lack an understanding of what they need to do to achieve them.

Teachers now mark work regularly and sometimes include helpful and often encouraging comments. However, marking does not often explain to pupils the precise steps they need to take to improve their work.

There has been good work by the school to improve attendance and punctuality through a mix of sanction and reward. The outcome is that both attendance and punctuality have improved. As a result the school now targets its resources on pupils who frequently struggle to turn up on time. Some of the innovations to improve punctuality are relatively recent, but nevertheless are showing signs of positive impact.

All of these improvements alongside robust self-evaluation demonstrate that the school has a strong capacity to improve further. There are good plans to bring about further improvement ready to be implemented at the start of next term, such as the

introduction of a unified start time for all pupils and improvements in information technology resources.

Governors are grateful for visits by local authority consultants to support the quality of teaching. There now exists good support from the local authority for improved attendance, but this has been too recent to have had enough impact.

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

Adrian Lyons  
Her Majesty's Inspector