

8 July 2010

Mrs Deborah Ball
Headteacher
Treeton CofE (A) Primary School
Wood Lane
Treeton
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S60 5QS

Dear Mrs Ball

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 7 July 2010 and for the information which you provided during my visit. I found the on-site preparation on the afternoon of 6 July most helpful and thank you for giving time to this at such short notice. Please pass on my thanks to the Chair of the Governing Body, pupils and staff for talking to me. I scrutinised evidence provided by the school, conducted lesson observations in four classes, briefly visited five other classes and looked at some pupils' work in books.

As a result of the inspection on 14–15 January 2010, the school was asked to:

- Ensure that safeguarding arrangements are fully met and in so doing that care, guidance and support is improved, by:
 - making use of relevant advice and training to ensure that the governing body and leaders have appropriate knowledge of requirements relating to the safeguarding of pupils
 - ensuring that appropriate checks are made and that records are completed accurately as a matter of urgency.

- Improve pupils' attainment and progress in Key Stage 2, by:
 - improving the quality of teaching, the use of assessment and the quality of teachers' marking
 - making better use of information and communication technology in pupils' learning.

- Improve the precision and effectiveness of school self-evaluation, by:
 - undertaking more rigorous evaluation of teaching and learning
 - carrying out greater scrutiny of pupils' work and progress



- having a closer emphasis on the impact of recent school initiatives on pupils' outcomes
- ensuring that governors provide greater challenge and more thorough checking of the school's effectiveness and compliance with statutory requirements.

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.

Safeguarding now has a much higher profile than at the time of the last inspection. The school has adopted a much more rigorous approach to ensuring pupils' safety. Swift action has already been taken to improve procedures and to address areas of concern, for example, a thorough audit of safeguarding procedures has been carried out. The required record of checks on adults' suitability to work with children is now up to date and meets current statutory requirements. All staff have received updated training and improvements have been made to the site security. Governors are now in a better position to hold the school to account and ensure compliance with statutory requirements. In addition, clear plans are in place to ensure all staff and governors continue to receive regular training on safeguarding and that the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures is regularly evaluated. As a result of all these actions, the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding processes has improved significantly. The school is no longer in breach of its statutory requirements in relation to safeguarding.

Evidence from lessons observed during the visit indicates that a greater proportion of pupils in Key Stage 2 are beginning to make faster progress. This is because the quality of teaching and of teacher's marking is improving. Many pupils are enjoying a greater level of challenge in most lessons. Consequently, they are becoming more actively engaged in their learning and gaining a clearer view of how to progress further. In addition, pupils' improved behaviour and attitudes to learning are creating a more positive learning environment. However, opportunities for staff to work in teams to share the best teaching practices and increase the consistency of teaching still further are not always fully utilised. There still remains some way to go until all pupils are accelerating their pace of learning. Pupils' progress is slower in a minority lessons because learning activities are not always as effectively adapted to meet their needs.

Recent provisional test results at the end of Key Stage 2 show that levels of attainment have risen, indicating the declining trend at the time of the last inspection is being successfully addressed. The most marked improvement has been in pupils' writing, where the proportion of pupils reaching both the average and above average standard has risen significantly. In addition, the school's performance data indicates the proportion of pupils working at or above the expected level throughout the school is beginning to increase. Improvements in information communication technology (ICT) have been less marked. The school has focused on



seeking specialist consultant advice before purchasing additional ICT equipment. However opportunities to further improve pupils' ICT skills and to use ICT to enhance learning across the curriculum are not always taken.

Leaders are gaining a more accurate view of the school's strengths and a clearer understanding of how to improve the school still further; as a result, the pace of improvement is increasing. Leaders are beginning to evaluate the impact of new initiatives more effectively and to check more thoroughly that agreed procedures are impacting positively on pupils' outcomes. More rigorous procedures for monitoring and evaluating teaching and learning are becoming embedded. Staff have a greater awareness of how well pupils are doing and greater accountability for the progress they make. Governors are developing the skills to provide effective challenge and support and are receiving the necessary training from the local authority. In addition, the school is increasingly gaining benefit from the professional expertise amongst members of the governing body.

The local authority has provided effective support particularly in resolving the issues related to safeguarding. The local authority's statement of action was judged to meet requirements.

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

Fiona Gowers
Additional Inspector