

Serco Inspections  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

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

**Direct T** 0121 679 9162  
**Direct email:** siobhan.garrattley@serco.com

15 April 2013

Phil Goulding  
Newcroft Primary School  
Trueway Drive  
Shepshed  
Loughborough  
LE12 9DU

Dear Mr Goulding

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Newcroft Primary School, Leicestershire local authority.**

Following my visit to your school on 12 April 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the headteacher designate, other senior leaders, the Chair and a member of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. The school's self-evaluation summary was discussed with senior leaders. In addition, short visits were made to a sample of lessons with the headteacher.

**Context**

In September 2012 the current headteacher gave notice that he would retire at the end of the academic year. Following that, and since the recent inspection, a new headteacher has been appointed and will take up post in September 2013.

## **Main findings**

The school has begun to address the areas for improvement from the last inspection. The school leaders and governors are now very clear about the main actions required to ensure good outcomes by the next inspection. It is widely accepted by leaders and governors that accelerating the pace and progress of pupils' learning in lessons is key.

Following the recent inspection, a school improvement plan has been constructed to take into account the two main areas that were identified for improvement. This includes clear success criteria which will enable school leaders and governors to measure the progress being made in tackling the two priority areas. This revised school improvement plan is fit for purpose and attends to all the key recommendations noted in the recent inspection report. In addition, the school data tracking system has been refined so that progress can be checked in smaller steps. This system is designed to provide a more detailed view of the progress that pupils are making in all subjects across the school and to spot patterns and trends. A useful guide has also been published and explored with all teachers outlining the important features of good teaching and learning so that they can focus on maximising the learning for all pupils. A full programme of phonics training for teachers and teaching assistants is already underway.

While the quality of teaching is checked regularly by school leaders, evaluations of the quality of learning require improvement because the observation process does not take full account of the learning gains made in lessons. Members of the governing body meet regularly to discuss the progress of pupils and the actions that need to be taken in order for the school to become good. They will be helped further to do this when the refinements and changes mentioned above have been completed and are part of everyday practice.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- maintain a tight focus on accelerating the pace and progress of pupils in all lessons
- maintain a tight focus on evaluating learning when observing lessons
- plan a realistic and constructive programme of induction for the new headteacher to ensure a smooth transition and handover at the end of the summer term
- ensure that the highly valued and useful support provided by the local authority's School Improvement Partner can continue in the coming year.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

**External support**

The School Improvement Partner provides a useful steer to the school as well as an objective view of the quality of what the school provides. He has been instrumental in supporting the school improvement planning process following the recent inspection and has guided the governing body assiduously throughout the process of recruiting the new headteacher.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Leicestershire.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**