

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

T 0300 1231231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Direct T** 01695 566855  
**Direct F** 01695 729320  
**Direct email:**  
gail.hill@cfbt.com



19 April 2013

Mr Gary McKeon  
Headteacher  
Colne Lord Street School  
Lord Street  
Colne  
Lancashire  
BB8 9AR

Dear Mr McKeon

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Colne Lord Street School, Lancashire**

Following my visit to your school on 18 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 in February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with yourself, the deputy headteacher and assistant headteacher, four governors including the Chair of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. I considered the school improvement plan and documents relating to its implementation. I also made short visits to most classes.

#### **Context**

Staffing has remained stable since the school's most recent inspection. A new headteacher has been appointed who will take up post in September 2013, following your retirement at the end of the summer term. A well-considered programme of activities has been planned to ensure a smooth transition in the leadership of the school.

#### **Main findings**

School leaders have responded with urgency, ambition and determination to the findings of the most recent inspection. The school improvement plan clearly indicates the actions to be taken and identifies appropriate success criteria, including challenging targets for pupils'

achievement. Progress in implementing the plan is regularly reviewed. The plan is underpinned by a calendar of school improvement meetings, with precise actions identified to be completed week by week.

The school's policies for teaching and marking have been reviewed and amended. There is clarity regarding how all staff are expected to contribute to moving the school quickly on its journey to becoming good.

A well-targeted consultancy support package to improve teaching in mathematics has begun. Consultancy support for improving literacy has been scheduled. The work of consultants is clearly focused on addressing issues identified in the inspection report.

Achievement of pupils is regularly monitored. There are strong indications that the school's very positive profile of pupils' progress is being built upon and the gap between the attainment of pupils in the school and that found nationally is closing quickly. School leaders and teachers are working hard to ensure that any unevenness in progress across classes is addressed. Teachers are absolutely clear as to which individual pupils are in danger of underachieving and a wide range of interventions is in place to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential.

The strengths of the school that were evident in the inspection report, including above average attendance, good behaviour and a positive ethos for learning are being built upon. Staff morale is high and there is a 'can do' culture that means that any barriers to improvement are quickly recognised.

Governors are insightful, supportive of the school and committed to its improvement. They have a good understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in the school and the steps being taken to secure its improvement. Governors are working to ensure that there is a smooth transition in leadership of the school. They have planned a review of the school's performance management arrangements.

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

- provide opportunities for senior leaders and core subject leaders to observe teaching and provide feedback to colleagues so that there is a consistent approach to quality assurance and a greater focus on professional development through sharing good practice.

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

## **External support**

The school welcomes the effective support provided by the local authority adviser who makes regular visits as part of the school service guarantee. The local authority is providing consultant support for developments in literacy and numeracy. This programme has been contracted carefully with school leader and is bespoke to the school's needs. Additional training for school governors is planned, focused on their role in school improvement. Training on the leadership of learning has been arranged by the local authority. The school has previously worked in partnership with an outstanding school in the local authority, funded by The National College. The formal relationship has now concluded, but informal links have been maintained and are valued by school leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Shirley Gornall

**Her Majesty's Inspector**