

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

T 0300 123 1231

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

Direct T 01695 566868

Direct F 01695 729320

Direct email: [jsimmons@cfbt.com](mailto:jsimmons@cfbt.com)



1 October 2014

Mrs Lindsay Lomas  
Headteacher  
Cliffe Hill Community Primary School  
Stoney Lane  
Lightcliffe  
Halifax  
West Yorkshire  
HX3 8TW

Dear Mrs Lomas

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cliffe Hill Community Primary School, Calderdale**

Following my visit to your school on 30 September 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. 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 June 2014. At its previous section 5 the school was also judged to require improvement. This monitoring inspection was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- sharpen measurable success criteria and milestones in the school development plan.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leaders, middle leaders, members of the governing body, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. The inspector evaluated a range of documentation including: the school development plan; monitoring reports; the tracking of pupils' progress, policies and the minutes of governing body meetings.

## **Context**

Since the inspection in June two members of staff have left and two newly qualified teachers have joined the school alongside a newly appointed teacher who will take over responsibility for mathematics. In addition, there have been some major changes to the governing body with the appointment of a new chair and vice chair. A newly appointed school improvement partner from the local authority has also commenced working with senior leaders.

## **Main findings**

Despite some considerable disappointment and disbelief at the outcomes of the inspection in June, senior leaders have not allowed themselves to be blown off course or distracted away from the task in hand. As a result, no time has been lost, the pace of change has intensified and all staff are stepping up to the mark once again. Immediate action has been taken to tighten procedures and strengthen provision. This is particularly evident in improvements to the effectiveness of middle leaders who are increasing their impact well with refocused action plans, greater access to performance data and a clear consensus about their role in improving outcomes for pupils.

The school development plan has been realigned and follows closely the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection. However, some of the targets within the plan are not as sharp as they could be and do not have clear measurable milestones against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated by governors over-time.

Systems to strengthen teaching and learning are gathering pace. Improvements in how leaders at all levels check on the quality of teaching are continuing with a greater focus on how well pupils and groups of pupils achieve in lessons, alongside tightened procedures to gather a range of information from pupil performance data and the scrutiny of pupils' work.

Governance is becoming sharper-edged. The early actions of new appointments for example are demonstrating a clear understanding of the school's most pressing priorities and a resolve to challenge senior leaders and hold them to account.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

The support from the newly appointed local authority officer bodes well for the future. In a relatively short period of time it is clear that this work will be tailored effectively to the needs of the school and centred around strengthening the skills of leaders at all levels and improving the quality of teaching and learning.

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

Yours sincerely

Steve Isherwood

**Her Majesty's Inspector**