

PROTECT-INSPECTION

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14 October 2010

Mr Kevin Smart
Stockingford Junior School
Grove Road
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CV10 8JY

Dear Mr Smart

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Stockingford Junior School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Wednesday 13 October 2010, for the time you gave to our telephone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please give my thanks to the group of pupils who spoke to me about their learning logs. I would be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to the pupils who cooked and served lunch for the senior management team and myself; these young people hosted our lunch in a very professional manner and were a real credit to the school.

Three new staff joined the school in September 2010. Experienced staff have been appointed as directors of learning to manage Key Stage 2.

As a result of the inspection on 8 July 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made: **satisfactory** progress in making improvements and **good** progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Standards have continued to improve in English. The provisional results of the 2010 Key Stage 2 national tests in English are likely to be close to the national figure; however, outcomes in mathematics are likely to remain well below average. A scrutiny of the pupils' books reveals that basic number skills are appropriate but that many pupils struggle to understand the mathematical vocabulary used in tasks and tests. As a result, they make errors in the methods they employ or in the calculations required.

The school has developed a robust assessment database since the last inspection and this details the improving progress secured by classes and by year groups.



Challenging targets have been set and the majority of classes have made above average progress in the last academic year. This progress is clearly evident in the pupils' English books; however, inconsistencies remain between groups, most notably in mathematics. Marking is appropriate and is helping most pupils' understand how to improve.

HMI observed eight lessons and teaching was satisfactory or better in all lessons. The better lessons use assessment information well to plan provision. Outstanding teaching was seen on three quite different occasions. In a busy Year 3/ 4 literacy lesson, the strong teamwork between classroom assistants and the teacher, the range of challenges provided and the imaginative resources deployed, helped the whole class enrich their spoken and written language. Similarly, a Year 5/ 6 group were nurtured through a variety of challenging food technology experiences, beautifully linked to appropriate literacy and numeracy goals, and made outstanding progress. In an excellent Year 3/4 art lesson, students were given the vocabulary, confidence and skills required to make outstanding progress as they applied the techniques demonstrated in brisk, vibrant question and answer sessions. The artwork evident in their portfolios would be viewed positively if produced by Key Stage 3 students in a secondary school.

Each of these lessons placed consistent emphasis on developing the appropriate subject-specific skills and language required for the pupils to make progress. Senior staff have identified the need to adopt this approach in order to improve standards in mathematics and HMI agrees.

The monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning is accurate. Senior staff accompanied HMI in the joint observation of teaching; the views they expressed during a review of provision concurred with the judgements given by the inspector. The senior team is well balanced and the actions taken since the last inspection have clearly helped to improve attendance and achievement.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

David Jones

Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in July 2009.

- Raise standards further by ensuring a consistently good rate of progress in reading, writing and mathematics as pupils move through the school.
- Improve the quality of teaching by making better use of assessment information to plan and provide activities which accurately meet the needs of different groups of pupils.
- Ensure pupils are set challenging targets, they know what their targets are and they understand what they need to do to achieve them.
- Improve leadership and management at all levels by ensuring senior teachers use their findings from monitoring and evaluation to raise further the achievement of all pupils.