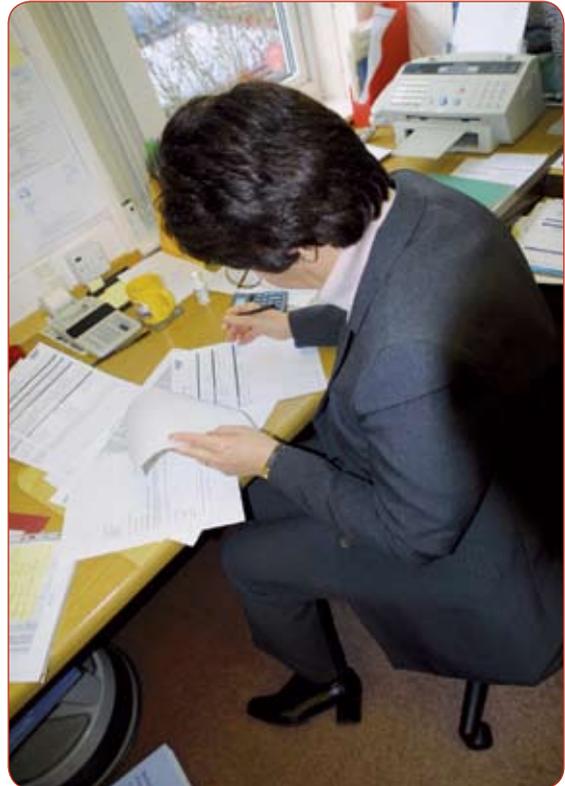


Inspection reforms on the horizon

In readiness for the new inspection regime, Knowle Primary School tell us how they've improved their school improvement process so helping reduce the worry and stress of inspection



Consultation is underway on proposed changes to the school inspection process following Ofsted chief Christine Gilbert's announcement that standards in England have stalled. Plans could result in the cessation of the current two-day notice period and the introduction of so called 'lightning' inspections, in which teachers would receive no warning before the arrival of an inspector.

Inspection time can be stressful for many schools and the new plans could increase the pressure on teaching and non-teaching staff. A primary school in Plymouth has made preparation for the school inspection a much simpler task by introducing an internet-based system for managing the whole-school improvement process.

Knowle Primary uses schoolcentre.net, Granada Learning's online school self-evaluation service. The tool allows schools to store their Self-evaluation Form (SEF) online alongside any relevant documentation gathered to demonstrate school development. Local

authority school improvement partners can log on to see how a school is moving forward and suggest ways in which further progress can be made. All this information is easily accessible when the time comes for the school inspection. schoolcentre.net even enables the SEF form to be automatically uploaded to the Ofsted website so that inspectors can view it prior to their arrival at a school.

"schoolcentre.net has transformed our school improvement process and eased the burden of administration on teaching and non-teaching staff," said Knowle's Headteacher, Judy Milford. "School staff, governors and school improvement partners can access an up-to-date copy of the SEF online using a secure password and view a range of supporting evidence which we store on the system, such as information on pupil progress and details of learning intervention strategies."

For more information on schoolcentre.net please visit www.schoolcentre.net or call 0208 996 3321.