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30 March 2011

Mr Richard Gower
Headteacher
Kingsleigh Primary School
Hadow Road
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Dorset
BH10 5HT

Dear Mr Gower

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Kingsleigh Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave me when I inspected your school on 18 March 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection.

There have been no significant contextual changes since the previous inspection.

As a result of the inspection on 12–13 January 2010, 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 good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Having been low for the previous four years, pupils' attainment improved to be broadly average in the 2010 tests for pupils in Year 6, with significant improvement in mathematics. Based on the school's current data and evidence from the monitoring inspection, pupils' achievement is satisfactory. The school is successful in closing the gap in progress made by different groups, especially that between pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and those who are not. The biggest gap remains in English where boys do not achieve as well as girls. However, recent initiatives to amend the curriculum, to make it more appealing to boys, show encouraging signs. In addition, the recent addition of 'Big Write' in Year 6 indicates greater engagement of boys in writing, especially because they now have a good understanding of what they need to learn in order, for example, to become a secure Level 4c writer.



In the lessons observed, and on the 'Learning Walk' with the headteacher where all other classes were observed briefly, pupils' behaviour was good and they showed very positive attitudes to their work. It was 'Red Nose Day' on the day of the monitoring inspection and, through their efforts in wearing an impressive range of costumes and running a variety of stalls, pupils made a strong contribution to helping those less fortunate than themselves.

The lessons observed were good or outstanding. There is a significant strength in teachers' use of weekly planning and evidence from this that teachers amend their planning each day based on their assessment of the previous day's work. Pupils receive valuable feedback from teachers based on the marking of their work. Those pupils who are identified as in danger of falling behind are identified on planning, with annotations made to show their progress within individual lessons. Planning is successful in meeting the needs of different groups, with the outstanding example in a Year 2 mathematics lesson, identifying precisely what each group should learn by the end of the lesson.

The senior leadership team monitor teaching and learning rigorously. Through half-termly assessments, they identify rapidly an individual or groups at risk of falling behind and identify these as 'red or amber'. Individual class teachers are held to account for the progress their pupils make through regular professional dialogue. The school's raising achievement plan (RAP) is targeted at raising attainment and improving pupils' progress, and has very sharp and measurable criteria against which its success can be measured. Subject leaders and the inclusion leader play a significant roll in driving up attainment in subjects and for groups of pupils.

The school receives good support from the local authority. The School Improvement Partner works effectively with the senior leadership team through provision of challenge and support. An external consultant provides valuable and effective expertise in developing teachers' confidence and accuracy in assessing pupils' work, especially in writing, through the moderation with individual teachers of the levels at which pupils work.

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 Curtis

Additional Inspector



Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in January 2010.

- Ensure the progress of all groups of pupils is good in order to increase the proportion of them reaching nationally expected levels and above, especially in mathematics.
- Ensure all teachers assess and monitor pupils' progress more accurately during lessons and adapt the lessons accordingly.
- Ensure leaders and managers at all levels are effective in using available school information to monitor the quality of teaching and learning more efficiently and analytically.