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7 July 2011

Mr L Jackson
Headteacher
Kingsway Primary School
Fountayne Street
Goole
DN14 5HQ

Dear Mr Jackson,

Notice to improve: monitoring inspection of Kingsway Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 6 July 2011 and for the information which you provided during the inspection. Please extend my thanks to the pupils and staff who made time to meet me during the day.

As a result of the inspection on 15 November 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 is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement and good progress in raising the pupils' achievement.

At the time of the previous inspection pupils' progress and performance in Years 3 to 6 was inadequate. This is no longer the case. Pupils are making much better progress throughout Key Stage 2. Unvalidated results for national tests in English and mathematics at the end of Year 6 in 2011 show a significant improvement on the previous year. Pupils demonstrate a rapidly improving ability to write extended pieces of work which are accurately punctuated and spelt. A notable feature is the increased proportion of pupils attaining the higher Level 5 in writing and mathematics. Lesson observations, a scrutiny of pupils' work and discussions with pupils undertaken during the inspection confirmed the improving trend in achievement. Senior leaders are ensuring that pupils develop good literacy and numeracy skills by raising teachers' expectations, particularly in Key Stage 2, and providing a curriculum that stimulates pupils' interests. The difference in the progress made by boys and girls has been significantly reduced.

The quality of teaching has improved dramatically since the previous inspection and this is why the progress made by all pupils is accelerating. Teachers use assessment effectively to ensure that work is well matched to pupils' needs. On occasions, the assessments of how pupils are performing during lessons lack clarity but school leaders are tackling this through targeted support. A key feature of all lessons visited during the inspection is the opportunity for pupils to engage in their learning through talk, either by responding to the teachers' probing questions or in discussion with their peers. This affords pupils the chance to think

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and articulate their ideas, which, in turn, enhances understanding. Lessons are well structured with a good balance between teacher input and pupil activity and this allows sufficient time for tasks to be completed. Good use is made of information and communication technology to support teaching and learning. Teaching assistants are well deployed and make a valuable contribution in supporting pupils' progress within the classroom. Above all, staff have high expectations of pupils and a 'can do' culture is permeating the school. This is having a positive effect on pupils' attitudes; they enjoy their learning and are keen to succeed. They particularly appreciate seeing their work displayed and are proud of their achievements.

Attendance has improved significantly since November 2010. The percentage of lessons lost has been reduced by half, persistent absence has fallen notably and overall attendance is now in line with the national average. This reflects a remarkable turnaround and is due to the pro-active approach taken by the school in addressing this issue. Particular features include: establishing positive relationships with parents and carers; good links with external agencies; the involvement of a school/parent support adviser; raising pupils' awareness of the importance of schooling; and effective monitoring systems that enables absence to be followed up without delay.

The headteacher is giving the school good direction and is ably supported by other senior leaders who are well informed and committed to raising pupils' achievement still further. The senior management team is acutely aware of what is required to take the school forward and has well-formulated plans to ensure that improvements are sustained.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose. Good support has been provided in respect of the areas identified for improvement.

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

Mr Christopher Keeler
Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place on 15 November 2010

- Raise attainment in writing and mathematics by the end of Key Stage 2, and accelerate pupils' progress across Years 3 to 6 for all pupils, but especially boys and average attainers by:
 - ensuring that activities meet all pupils' needs
 - creating more opportunities for pupils to talk, listen to each other's ideas, and develop their thinking
 - sharing the successful strategies used in other areas of the school
 - displaying pupils' writing and calculations to celebrate good outcomes and inspire others.
- Improve pupils' attendance by:
 - working closely with families and outside agencies to reduce the number of holidays taken during term-time
 - setting precise targets for improved rates of pupils' attendance and targeting resources accordingly.
- Ensure all teaching is at least good or better by:
 - assessing carefully the needs of all learners, in particular those of average ability, to ensure they are appropriately challenged and supported
 - using information and communication technology more effectively to stimulate and support learning
 - ensuring a balance between the introductory part of the lesson and the time given for pupils to work productively with others and develop their own understanding.