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21 November 2012

Mrs Joanne Stanley-Bell
Wickham Market Community Primary School
Dallinghoo Road
Wickham Market
Woodbridge
IP13 0RP

Dear Mrs Stanley-Bell

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Wickham Market Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 19 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, a representative of the local authority, and the chair of governors. Documents scrutinised included development plans, minutes of governors meetings, and lesson observation records. Short visits were made to the majority of classes and a sample of workbooks observed in class.

Context

The context and staffing of the school remain unchanged since the last inspection.

Main findings

The school has amended its school improvement plan in the light of the findings of the last inspection. Working closely with governors and the local authority, clear and challenging targets have been set for improvement. Governors have begun to monitor progress towards these closely.

Many of the changes necessary to bring about these improvements have been implemented and are already having an effect. All staff have been trained in the principles of teaching reading through letter sounds. The school has changed its lesson planning to enable this method to be used throughout the school. Additional teaching aids have been obtained. In class, both teachers and teaching assistants work closely together so that pupils learn to read very effectively.

The teaching of mathematics and the operation of teaching assistants in mathematics classes is not developing as quickly as in reading and literacy. Some very good practice exists, but it is not consistent across all classes. In response to the last inspection, the school has reviewed its mathematics resources and is in the process of making them more accessible for pupils and staff.

Lessons are now closely monitored by the headteacher and senior team. These observations are accurate, however they do not identify in sufficient depth how well pupils are learning. As a result, it is more difficult for managers to monitor how well the needs of individual pupils are catered for in class, and how effectively all pupils are challenged. Governors give effective support to the school and have set challenging targets. They work closely with senior staff and increasingly with individual teachers. They are having an impact on the improvement of standards, and their monitoring of progress towards targets is improving.

Senior leaders and governors, and the local authority are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- Ensure that the lesson observation system monitors learning more rigorously, and that this information is used to plan lessons and drive up standards.
- Devise and implement systematic ways to share the good teaching and teaching assistant practice seen in some mathematics classes.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school has made good use of the training offered by the local authority. In addition to specialist training in reading, many staff have visited outstanding schools to observe and learn from aspects of their operation. In addition, training and

development work has taken place in aspects of leadership and management, notably the management of performance

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Suffolk and as below.

Yours sincerely

Ian Seath
Her Majesty's Inspector