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14 November 2012

Mr Jeremy Fisher
Headteacher
Brimsdown Primary School
Green Street
Enfield
EN3 7NA

Dear Mr Fisher

Requires improvement first monitoring inspection visit of Brimsdown Primary School, Enfield

Following my visit to your school on 13 November 2012 I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

This monitoring inspection visit was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, the Chair and a member of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

Main findings

The HMI monitoring visit of October 2011 acted as a catalyst for much needed improvement. As a result the pace of change has increased and these improvements have continued since the September 2012 inspection. The governing body has been strengthened with additional members from an education background. This is improving the support available to the school as well as helping the governing body to ask better questions about pupils' achievement and teaching. Governors are developing a more secure understanding of information about pupils' progress. They

are now able to demonstrate how money made available by the pupil premium has led to a marked reduction over the last two years in the gap between pupils entitled to and not eligible for free school meals. Governors now expect more of teachers who earn higher salaries and have linked senior managers' salaries to the school's success.

Before the recent section 5 inspection, governors appointed an additional senior leader on a temporary basis. The addition of this post has begun to help the headteacher stand back and see the big picture. Governors have rightly decided to keep this extra post. Phase leaders are playing a greater part in getting the school to good. Where they are free from having an allocated class, they are using information about pupils' progress to challenge teachers. They show staff how to teach well. Teachers increasingly plan together and work in pairs or threes to develop their teaching.

Two areas are hindering improvement. These are the school's difficulty in appointing a skilled teacher to lead mathematics and continuing inconsistency in teaching.

Senior leaders and governors 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:

- appoint a skilled leader for mathematics as soon as possible and seek external advice on the effectiveness of current provision in the subject
- take robust action to improve teaching by ensuring that all teachers fully participate in the school's approaches to joint planning, coaching and focused use of additional adults in classrooms.

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

External support

The local authority has carried out reviews that show improvement but which identify weaknesses. As a result, advisory staff have worked with the school to improve teaching. The local authority paid for the additional appointment of a senior leader for a term. Since the school was identified as being at risk in the October 2011 monitoring visit, the local authority has given effective support. The school also receives valuable support from a link with another school and from a number of consultants.

I am copying this note of visit to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Enfield.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lyons

Her Majesty's Inspector