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14 November 2012

Jo Franklin and Jeremy Iver
Headteachers
Stebon Primary School
Burdett Estate
London
E14 7AD

Dear Ms Franklin and Mr Iver

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

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 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 headteachers, other senior leaders, members of the interim executive board, a representative of the local authority and the deputy headteacher of the partner school. The school development plan was evaluated, and documentation about performance management was discussed. The headteachers took the HMI on a tour of the school to look at teaching and learning and the changes made to the classrooms since the inspection.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staff or the school's organisation since the inspection.

Main findings

The new headteachers are tackling weaknesses in teaching in a concerted way by giving staff honest feedback. Members of the interim executive board challenge the

headteachers and support them in making difficult staffing decisions. Since the inspection, the system for checking the quality of teaching and judging whether staff have met their targets has been overhauled. New targets have been set for teachers to make them accountable for the progress their pupils make. The assistant headteachers are, in turn, accountable for the quality of teaching of the staff they manage and support. Work has been effective on improving the classrooms so that they are interesting and inviting places for pupils to learn. The phrase 'What makes it good?' is used around the school to set clear expectations of staff and pupils alike. The school's development plan focuses strongly on improving teaching but does not always state clearly what effect improvements are expected to have on pupils' attainment and progress. Members of the interim executive board are aware of the need to extend the governance role to others, including parents and community members, although there are no firm plans to do so yet.

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:

- develop a plan for the interim executive board to step back from its governance role while making sure that a new governing body that includes parents and members of the wider community is put in place
- tweak the action plan to include numerical targets that help the interim executive board to judge whether actions have been successful in raising pupils' attainment.

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

External support

The school draws effectively on support from the partner school as arranged by the local authority. External consultants provide training for teachers in teaching phonics which is beginning to have an impact. Assistant headteachers are receiving training to develop their leadership roles which is helping them to manage the performance of their team of staff. The local authority holds half-termly meetings to challenge the school's leaders to improve the quality of education and to check that actions being taken are having the desired effect. These meetings will continue for the immediate future until the interim executive board has stepped aside and a new governing body is up and running.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the interim executive board and the Director of Children's Services for Tower Hamlets and as below.

Yours sincerely

Jane Wotherspoon
Her Majesty's Inspector