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25 November 2012

Michelle Gay
Headteacher
Osborne Primary School
Station Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B23 6UB

Dear Mrs Gay

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

Following my visit to your school on 23 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, other senior leaders, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body, a small group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated as were improvement plans for other aspects of the school including literacy, numeracy, inclusion and assessment.

Context

There have been no changes since the school was inspected in September 2012.

Main findings

The school has accurately identified its strengths and key areas for improvements. Senior leaders have focused their actions effectively in these areas. The programme

of monitoring teaching through regular drop-ins and progress meetings with staff is rigorous. The achievement of individual pupils and groups is checked thoroughly and regularly. The improvement plan has specific challenging end of year achievement targets for pupils although other milestones are less clear. The link between specific actions and monitoring and evaluation is not explicit on the school's improvement plan.

The school has introduced a range of strategies through its creative curriculum to raise achievement of more able pupils and motivate others through mathematics games and challenges. The small number of pupils spoken to knew what they needed to do to improve. They were particularly positive in their attitudes towards mathematics and information and communication technology but less so towards writing.

The school has set specific targets for governors' involvement. The governing body are closely involved in key appointments and in monitoring teaching with senior leaders. It is well informed and holds the school to account for its performance well.

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:

- Set out clear measurable milestones on its school improvement plan so that those monitoring and evaluating the work of the school can assess whether the school is on track to meet its achievement targets
- Continue to provide writing activities that excite and motivate pupils in the same way this is being achieved in mathematics and information and communication technology.

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

External support

The local authority is providing effective support in its brokering role of making links for the school with effective practice in other schools.

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

Yours sincerely

Mark Sims

Her Majesty's Inspector