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30 November 2012

Mr Rob Norton
Acting Headteacher
Beaford Community Primary School
Beaford
Winkleigh
Devon
EX19 8LJ

Dear Mr Norton

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

Following my visit to your school on 30 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 acting headteacher, the substantive headteacher, the literacy and numeracy leaders, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The inspector had a discussion with a newly qualified teacher and a few of the older pupils. The school action plans and a review of the governing body were also evaluated. Lesson monitoring carried out by the acting headteacher was reviewed.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the recent inspection, which judged the school to require improvement. The headteacher is returning from maternity leave in January 2013.

Main findings

The school improvement plan has been suitably revised. There is a strong emphasis on addressing the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan includes appropriate actions, timescales and intentions. However, it does not always make clear how the governing body will check that the school's actions are making a difference to the progress made by different groups of pupils.

A range of processes is now in place to enable leaders to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning of pupils. The literacy leader's reports are detailed and provide very valuable feedback on ways for teachers to improve further. Regular lesson observations check that the advice and support from the lead teacher is implemented, and that performance management objectives are being addressed. However, the lesson monitoring reports do not enough give enough emphasis to the impact of the teaching on pupils of all abilities within mixed age classes.

Staff receive a suitable programme of training to strengthen their roles in subject leadership since the recent inspection. The newly qualified teacher has an appropriate level of coaching from experienced teachers. The governors, with help from the local authority, have reviewed their processes for checking on the work of the school. They have established a committee to work with the school in addressing the main areas for improvement. Pupil progress is monitored but not analysed. Governors are gaining an accurate picture of teaching quality, but, are not aware of the support available to them to help leaders improve teaching that is not yet good.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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 the school improvement plan includes mechanisms so that the governing body can evaluate the impact of the school's actions on different groups of pupils
- provide feedback to teachers on how well lessons are meeting the needs of pupils of all abilities
- work with the local authority to strengthen further the role of the governing body.

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

External support

The local authority advisor and the headteacher have worked in partnership to coordinate a range of useful support for staff. This is helping to improve the quality of teaching, curriculum planning and strengthen subject leadership. There is further scope for the local authority to provide training for the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Palk

Her Majesty's Inspector