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Mrs Machaela Heavens
Headteacher
Cavendish Primary School
Cavendish Road
Hull
HU8 0JU

Dear Mrs Heavens

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Cavendish 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 including the numeracy coordinator, a school improvement officer from the local authority, the Chair of the Governing Body and four other governors. The school's improvement plan and other monitoring records and documents were evaluated.

Context

The Administration and Organisation Manager has left and the post is being covered by a person who is working part-time until a full-time appointment can be made. A new Chair of the Governing Body has been appointed. Governance has been strengthened with the appointment of additional governor who has expertise in school improvement.

Main findings

The headteacher and senior leaders are strengthening actions, already started prior to the previous inspection, to improve the quality of provision in the school. Evidence presented shows that looking at pupils' work regularly, training teachers how to plan lessons for all groups of pupils, together with lesson observations are beginning to make a difference. Monitoring of teaching and learning has a precise focus with constructive feedback provided to teachers. All these activities have been well received by teachers which shows their willingness to teach better lessons.

The recently amended school improvement plan correctly identifies clear actions relating to the key issues identified in the previous inspection. Senior leaders are keeping a close eye on how well pupils are doing in other subject areas, for example in writing and science. Some important features are however missing from the plan. For example, the lack of regular progress checks so that leaders can see if the planned actions are making a difference.

Governance is being re-organised so that individual governor's skills can be used more effectively. Governors are involved routinely in the work of the school, for example in forming the school development plan, so that they have a clear understanding of how well pupils are doing. Since the previous inspection governors have continued to attend training courses. These enable governors learn how to question and challenge leaders effectively.

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:

- sharpen the improvement plan so that leaders and governors are able to measure the success of actions, as a minimum, every term
- ensure that all external support has a measurable impact on improving pupil's outcomes and the quality of teaching throughout the school.

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

External support

A review undertaken by the local authority prior to the previous inspection has been followed up with support for all staff. A further check is planned for January 2013. Senior leaders have made links with staff from a local university to provide additional support and coaching for mathematics. A programme has been agreed to meet the needs of the teachers and their pupils. In addition, senior leaders are developing links with the local secondary school and other primaries to establish a network of self-help support.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young
Her Majesty's Inspector