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Miss C Smith
Headteacher
Parkstone Primary School
Parkstone Road
Hull
HU6 7DE

Dear Miss Smith

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

Following my visit to your school on 26 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, members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority and pupils. The school improvement plan and subject action plans were evaluated, and documentation about performance management was discussed.

Context

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

Main findings

The headteacher is tackling weaknesses in teaching and learning in a determined way. Teachers' expectations of what pupils are capable of achieving are being raised. Systems to check how effectively pupils are being taught have been reviewed following the inspection. Targets are being set for teachers to make them accountable for the progress their pupils make. The quality of teaching is checked regularly by senior leaders but there is no clear link between this activity and the performance management process.

The school's development plan reflects the head teacher's resolve to improve the work of the school by allocating time and resources to improve teaching and leadership and management. Although the plan makes clear the steps to be taken to improve teaching it does not identify precisely what teachers are expected to demonstrate during lessons. Similarly, action plans completed by subject leaders do not refer specifically to the anticipated impact of their actions on pupils' learning. Members of the governing body are aware that they need to keep a closer watch on what is happening in the school so that they are in a better position to challenge and support school leaders. As yet no group of governors has been formally allocated the task of doing this.

Senior leaders and governors have begun 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 mechanism by which the governing body may check more closely the work of the school in order to provide greater support and challenge to school leaders
- refine the school improvement plan to include clear targets that help the school leaders to determine whether actions have been successful in improving teaching and learning
- include specific targets relating to improving the quality of teaching as part of all teachers' performance management.

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

External support

The school draws effectively on support from local schools in order to observe good practice. The local authority provides training for teachers in teaching English and mathematics. The local authority holds regular meetings to evaluate and challenge the school's leaders to improve the quality of provision and check that actions designed to secure improvement are being actively pursued. Additional support for middle leaders about how to plan for improvement and for developing the skills of governors in how to challenge the work of the school is required. This was discussed with a representative of the local authority during the visit.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Keeler
Her Majesty's Inspector