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28 November 2012

Cath Allison
Headteacher
Holliers Walk Primary School
Holliers Walk
Hinckley
LE10 1QW

Dear Mrs Allison

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

Following my visit to your school on 27 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan, monitoring information and performance management documents were evaluated. A brief visit was made to each classroom.

Context

There have been no changes to the context of the school since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

The new headteacher is providing a strong and effective lead for school improvement. Plans for school improvement show the correct actions. They do not always show targets that can be precisely measured or the checks to be made to see

if the actions are working well enough. Appropriate training is in place for teachers. Teachers are being held to account for how well pupils make progress through a performance management system and termly pupil progress meetings. There is a system to keep track of the progress pupils make. Teachers have received training in how to assess the levels that pupils are working at accurately. The headteacher acknowledges that some teaching still 'requires improvement' because teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve are not high enough. Also those assessments are not always used to plan lessons that are challenging enough for all pupils. Teachers have been asked to improve their classrooms in specific ways. The headteacher acknowledges that not all teachers have done this well enough. Classes in Years 5 and 6 have been reorganised and the system to manage behaviour improved in order to improve behaviour and learning. Responsibility for leading school improvement has been more widely shared though the headteacher remains the driving force. There are those who are not doing as much as they should to make sure school improvement happens as quickly as possible. The governing body have reorganised to help them carry out their role more effectively. They have not taken swift enough action to put a programme in place to find out how well things are working.

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:

- identify targets for school improvement actions that can be measured alongside points in time to check on their success
- establish a programme of training and activities for the governing body so that they can make the best use of the information they are given and check for themselves how well the school is doing
- ensure that all teachers share the same high expectations of what pupils can achieve and improve their classrooms to better support pupils' learning
- ensure everyone plays their part in making sure that improvement happens urgently.

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

External support

The local authority has supported the school effectively in setting up a system to manage the performance of teachers. They have also nominated an independent consultant to support the school to improve pupils' writing. They have agreed to provide training in order to help the governing body to carry out their role more effectively. The headteacher is active in seeking support from other members of a network of likeminded headteachers within the county of Leicestershire.

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

Yours sincerely

Joanne Harvey
Her Majesty's Inspector