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30 November 2012

Mrs S Fitton
Headteacher
Catterick Garrison, Carnagill Community Primary School
Leadmill Estate
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 3HN

Dear Mrs Fitton

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Catterick Garrison, Carnagill 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

The inspector held meetings with the headteacher and three senior leaders, including the subject leaders for English and mathematics, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body and held a phone conversation with a representative of the local authority. During the visit, the inspector evaluated the school's improvement plan, the local authority improvement plan and looked at documents relating to the monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning.

Context

Since the inspection, the staff have remained stable but, as is the case in service children's schools, 13% of the pupil population have changed.

Main findings

Senior leaders in the school have been quick to tackle the issues identified in the recent section 5 inspection. Teachers are being held to account through renewed performance management arrangements for improving their practice but these still need to be linked to individual pupils' progress. Subject leaders have begun to tackle weaknesses in pupil assessment procedures and have accessed relevant training to enable them to better monitor pupils' learning in the classroom and work in their books. This has already led to accelerated progress for some pupils in writing.

Teachers have improved the way they plan lessons for pupils by taking much closer account of where individual pupils are at in their learning. They also deploy teaching assistants more effectively in whole-class teaching sessions. The action plan produced by senior leaders covers all of the areas for improvement identified by the September inspection. However it would benefit from the addition of more specific, measurable milestones to enable senior leaders and governors to monitor the impact of these actions more closely.

The governing body are committed to the school and they are very open to accessing the support they feel they need to better hold the school to account and move it to good by the next inspection. They have already accessed training through the local authority to understand their roles and responsibilities better. Her Majesty's Inspector therefore recommends that they undertake an external review of their performance through the National College of School Leadership.

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:

- revise the school action plan to include specific, measurable milestones linked to pupils' progress
- seek the help of the local authority to identify a school with similar mobility problems to enable teachers to improve the assessment and subsequent planning for pupils who join the school other than at the normal times
- contact the National College via governance.review@nationalcollege.gsi.gov.uk to request a review of governance.

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

External support

The local authority has drawn up an effective action plan in collaboration with senior leaders which offers a raft of support for the school. Senior leaders need to use the support available to tackle identified barriers to the school's improvement. The school is already using the services of a leading teacher to support teaching in Key Stage 1.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for North Yorkshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Joy Frost

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese - for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.