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30 November 2012

Helen Tarokh
Headteacher
Knighton Fields Primary School and Community Centre
Knighton Fields Road West
Leicester
LE2 6LG

Dear Mrs Tarokh

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Knighton Fields Primary School and Community Centre

Following my visit to your school on 28 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 and members of the Governing Body, the headteacher from a partner school, the attendance officer and representatives from the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the notes of pupil progress meetings, evaluations of work to improve teaching and data about attendance and pupil progress.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

The checks made by the headteacher and other senior leaders on the quality of teaching have identified specifically which aspects need improvement.

The attendance of pupils is beginning to rise. This is a result of the much greater understanding of which pupils need to improve their attendance and a more productive relationship with parents.

The school improvement plan has accurately identified what the school priorities are. However, it is not yet sharply focused on linking actions to improve teaching with the desired outcomes for pupils.

Half termly meetings to check progress are ensuring that pupils who need additional support receive extra help. This includes pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals. However, insufficient attention is being paid to checking the progress of this group which is approximately 50% of the school population.

Members of the governing body have taken advantage of recent training and demonstrate the ability to question and challenge school leaders more effectively. They are well placed to hold the headteacher to account.

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:

- Sharpen up the school improvement plan to specifically link the actions to improve teaching to the desired outcomes for pupils so that success can be judged accurately.
- Ensure that school leaders and the governing body pay more attention to the progress of pupils eligible for free school meals so they can take effective action to narrow the gap in attainment.

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

External support

The school benefits from support from its partners. Work with the partner school has resulted in improvements to school leadership, such as in mathematics and better teaching overall as good and outstanding practice is shared. The local authority has provided support to moderate and improve the quality of assessment as well as to offer the required challenge and support needed to move the school towards good.

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

Yours sincerely

Tim Bristow

Her Majesty's Inspector