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3 December 2012

Mrs Elizabeth Harros
Headteacher
Holy Name RC Primary School
Danepark Road
Hull
HU6 9AA

Dear Mrs Harros

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Holy Name RC 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, middle leaders, a school improvement officer from the local authority, the Chair of the Governing Body and three other governors. The school improvement plan, together with the literacy, numeracy and reading recovery plans were evaluated. Other documents provided by the headteacher were also considered.

Context

Since the previous inspection there have been no changes to staffing. However, a section 48 inspection took place at the beginning of November 2012.

Main findings

Since the September inspection, the headteacher has increased the urgency with which weaknesses in teaching, pupils' behaviour and the progress made in lessons

improve. Another inspection took place just after the S5 inspection; consequently observations of teaching by the headteacher have not taken place. Checking the way teachers plan lessons and reviewing the quality of work in pupils' books has taken place. This work has given the headteacher a clear and accurate understanding of where improvements are needed. Changes to the way lessons other than English and mathematics are planned are due to start in January 2013. This is to ensure that all subjects are taught frequently and activities engage and involve all pupils. Early indications show that a more consistent approach by staff toward dealing with the challenging behaviour by a very few pupils, are having a positive effect. Middle leaders in charge of literacy, numeracy and reading recovery are starting to be involved in developing their subjects. However, despite introducing new resources, middle leaders have not checked and considered if these programmes are making a difference to pupils' progress. Governors receive detailed information from the headteacher; other leaders do not provide this level of detail.

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:

- improve the school improvement plan so that it includes measurable points at regular intervals so that leaders and governors are able to check if new resources and systems are making a difference
- review the subject action plans to ensure that all initiatives have a clear impact on pupils' progress and are easily measurable
- monitor the quality of teaching and how this impacts on the progress being made by all pupils regularly.

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

External support

The local authority school improvement officer has ensured that a numeracy consultant works with leaders to improve the teaching of mathematics throughout the school. This work is to continue. There is further scope for the local authority in partnership with the headteacher to monitor the quality of teaching. Partnerships with other schools in the area and within the Diocese have helped leaders to make contact and to observe practice elsewhere.

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