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13 December 2012

Leigh Smith
Headteacher
Bushbury Hill Primary School
Old Fallings Lane
Wolverhampton
WV10 8BY

Dear Mrs Smith

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

Following my visit to your school on 12 December 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, senior leaders, members of the Governing Body including the Chair and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated as were other documents including tracking information on pupil achievement.

Context

There have been no changes since the school was inspected in October 2012.

Main findings

Senior leaders have identified writing as a priority in their improvement plan. They have introduced a new phonics scheme and daily handwriting. Additional time for support and monitoring literacy has been allocated. A Year 3 pilot allows pupils to do all their writing in one book to ensure consistency across subjects. Higher

attaining pupils are receiving additional support. Plans for further whole school training on writing are in place.

Pupil data indicates that Year 6 pupils are on track to continue the rising trend in attainment in writing. Almost all year groups are well placed to meet their challenging writing targets.

Recent monitoring of teaching of literacy has been conducted by all senior leaders; this is now focused on learning, the impact of support and the quality of teaching. School records show improvements in the quality of teaching of literacy.

The experienced governing body holds the school to account through an evaluation group and through visits to classes. It also contributed to the school improvement plan.

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:

- ensure all year groups in Key Stage 2 are on course to achieve their writing targets through teaching of literacy that is consistently good.
- clarify line management responsibilities for teaching assistants
- monitor teaching of other subjects with the same rigour as literacy.

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

External support

The local authority is providing effective support for the school. It has brokered support from neighbouring schools where outstanding teaching of literacy has been identified. It has challenged the school over its action plan and targets for pupils and increased the number of visits to the school. It has put in place plans for further lesson observations alongside senior leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Mark Sims
Her Majesty's Inspector