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17 December 2012

Headteacher
Norah Rowley
Deputy headteachers Kerry Davies and Ella Price
Ankermoor Primary School
Rene Road
Bolehall
Tamworth
B77 3NW

Dear Mrs Rowley, Mrs Davies and Mrs Price

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

Following my visit to your school on 14 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 and your senior staff gave me and for the time you all 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 acting headteacher who will be joining the school in January 2013. Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) also met with the two deputy headteachers, two members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. A meeting was also held with three other members of staff who have management responsibilities. The school's improvement plans were evaluated and the inspector had lunch with some children to discuss their views about the school.

Context

The headteacher will be retiring at the end of December 2012. The governing body and local authority have put in place interim management arrangements until governors appoint a permanent headteacher. An acting headteacher will manage the school from January 2013 along with the school's current two deputy headteachers.

Main findings

Senior leaders have already undertaken effective monitoring of teaching along with accurate assessments to check how well pupils are doing. Both governors and leaders have stepped up the intensity of monitoring to make sure that pupils are achieving as well as they should, particularly in mathematics. The school's improvement plans have clear targets and measures of success to gauge progress. There is now scope to identify more clearly who is monitoring, managing and evaluating each action point in the school's plans. In particular, the school needs to establish expert evaluations of progress in mathematics. Governors and teachers are keen to move the school forward and staff morale is very high. There are good systems in place to link governors to staff with management responsibilities so that governors get first-hand experience of the progress being made. The school now needs to build on this by putting in place further training on assessment for teachers and governors to enable them to measure pupils' rates of progress accurately.

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:

- set out who is managing, monitoring or evaluating each priority for improvement in the school's action plans so that different staff and governors undertake each type of activity to ensure objectivity and accuracy
- build on existing plans to provide training for teachers and governors that aims to improve their understanding of assessment and rates of pupil progress.

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

External support

There is a good range of support provided by the local authority, including improved links with another school and its governors after securing the temporary appointment of an acting headteacher. The local authority adviser provides regular reviews of progress. School leaders are benefitting from the guidance they receive about effective planning and are improving the creative curriculum to include mathematics and problem-solving work that aim to extend pupils' learning further.

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

Yours sincerely

Charalambos Loizou
Her Majesty's Inspector