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10 December 2012

Miss Maxine Pattison
Headteacher
Ferry Lane Primary School
Ferry Lane Estate
Tottenham
London
N17 9PP

Dear Miss Pattison

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Ferry Lane Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 10 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior staff, the Chair and other members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection, the modern foreign languages teacher has left the school. A leader for the provision and progress of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs has been appointed. Four part-time teaching assistants have joined the school.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Leaders and managers, including the governing body, are committed to improving matters. All of the areas for improvement from the section 5 inspection are included in the local authority's statement of action and the school's development plans,

which have been merged into one document. Improvement plans have helpful termly targets which can be easily measured to ensure the school's progress is on track. Leaders agree that improvement plans could be simplified with less detail. This is being addressed.

Leaders of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 play a key role in evaluating teaching and supporting teachers to improve. They have a good understanding of what good teaching looks like and how to achieve it. The school has established clear guidance to teachers about what is required through 'bottom line expectations' which include, for example, an expectation that teachers will plan tasks that meet the needs of all pupils. There are credible plans to improve the provision and outcomes for pupils who are new to English.

The governing body fully recognises that its role is vitally important in holding the school to account. Members of the governing body have contributed to improvement plans, for example by ensuring that the school seeks the views of parents and carers regularly. Members of the governing body have been trained to ensure that they can interpret data and now ask for more regular information about the progress of pupils. They are beginning to ask more challenging questions. Important pre-employment checks are made and recorded diligently. Leaders, including the governing body, understand that the school remains in a vulnerable position because there are some teaching vacancies which have yet to be filled.

The local authority is supporting the school, including by brokering a partnership arrangement with a local school and helping to improve teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The deputy headteacher works closely with the local authority lead in provision for learners who are new to speaking English as an additional language. The local authority's school improvement officer has conducted joint lesson observations with the headteacher in order to verify her judgements. There are plans for regular reviews of teaching and learning. The first is due to take place in February 2013

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plans are fit for purpose

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Haringey. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Winter
Her Majesty's Inspector