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18 December 2012

Dr Jan-Robert Tanner
Lingwood Primary and Nursery School
Chapel Road
Norwich
Lingwood
NR13 4NX

Dear Dr Jan-Robert Tanner

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

Following my visit to your school on 17 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 24 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, the headteacher has met with the local authority to prepare plans for improvement.

Main findings

Senior leaders accept that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones, and have taken some action to resolve them. They have:

- held meetings with each class teacher to review pupils' progress and identify what further help and support each pupil needs
- written an action plan to improve the areas identified in the recent inspection

- arranged an external review of governance in January 2013

However, there is a lack of urgency in the school to instigate improvements. Senior leaders are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection.

- too much of the headteacher's time is being absorbed in meetings about new school buildings and other commitments that take him out of school
- some lesson observations have taken place, but this information has not been evaluated and disseminated with staff and governors. Targets set by teachers have not been reviewed to make them more challenging
- the views of staff, governors, pupils and parents have not been sought
- the capacity to drive improvements is limited because the deputy headteacher and middle leaders on both sites are not monitoring the schools' work
- governors are keen to help but do not possess the knowledge or understanding to challenge the headteacher, and do not meet often enough.

The school should take immediate action to:

- show that it can respond effectively to improving the school by implementing plans for improvement immediately
- work more closely with the local authority to measure whether it is meeting the timescales and milestones set for improvement, and check how well leaders and managers are securing improvements.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. HMI will visit the school in 2013 to assess how well it is progressing, and whether it is likely to become a good school.

External support

The local authority has provided effective support for the headteacher to prepare plans for improvement. It recognises the lack of urgency in the school and intends to establish a project board to rigorously monitor its progress.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector