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18 December 2012

Mr Paul Barraclough
Headteacher
Carterhatch Junior School
Carterhatch Lane
Enfield
EN1 4JY

Dear Mr Barraclough

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Carterhatch Junior School

Following my visit to your school on Tuesday 18 December, 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 and senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. I also met with a group of Year 6 pupils and looked at their writing books. The school development plan and a range of other documents were evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes in staffing or organization since the school was last inspected.

Main findings

The headteacher and senior leadership team demonstrate a clear commitment to improving teaching and pupils' progress. They have the right blend of skills, experience and enthusiasm to lead the school forward. Since the school was

inspected it has put in place a range of initiatives intended to address areas for improvement. While it is too soon to see the impact of many of these, pupils say that the new reading books and greater focus on reading in classrooms has boosted their love of books. Pupils' handwriting is also showing early signs of improvement. Some talked with pride about how they have improved their letter formation and joins. Through its programme of lesson observations and coaching for teachers, the school is able to demonstrate early improvement in the quality of teaching. The school development plan has been revised so that it reflects the areas for improvement from the last inspection but retains the school's own ambitious priorities. While most actions are linked to measurable outcomes, some require improvement to make it clearer exactly how they will be measured. This will make it easier for the governing body to hold the school properly to account.

The governing body has carried out an audit of its skills and taken action to address gaps. Committees have been restructured to sharpen the monitoring of key priorities and additional responsibilities assigned. It is now better placed to monitor the work of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body knows the school well and where strengths and weaknesses lie.

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:

- sharpen the school improvement plan so that success criteria are more easily measured and will better enable the governing body to hold the school to account.

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

External support

The local authority has provided training for the governing body together with support for the teaching of English and mathematics and helps monitor the work of the school. The school's newly qualified teachers are supported through the school based mentor, local authority consultants and centrally provided training. The local authority has also helped arrange support from an outstanding local school.

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

Yours sincerely

Robert Lovett
Her Majesty's Inspector