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18 December 2012

Mrs C O'Malley
Headteacher
Albert Bradbeer Primary School
Turves Green
Northfield
Birmingham
B31 4RD

Dear Mrs O'Malley

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Albert Bradbeer Primary

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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, middle leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and records of the outcomes of monitoring activities were evaluated.

Context

There have been no important changes to the staffing since the last inspection. The current deputy headteacher will leave the school at the end of the term to take up the headship of another school. From the start of next term, a deputy headteacher from another school will be seconded to the deputy headship of this school until a permanent replacement has been appointed.

Main findings

Plans for improvement are in place and are being acted upon. Some plans do not have time-scales for putting actions into practice. As a result, there is not a clear emphasis on the Ofsted areas for improvement identified at the inspection.

Half-termly pupil progress meetings mean that teachers are more accountable and middle leaders have a clearer understanding of pupils' achievement in their areas of responsibility. The school has purchased additional resources to improve children's learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage outdoor area. The governing body has met with leaders to discuss plans for improvement and is now providing a greater level of challenge to the school. However, governors' understanding of how to use pupil's achievement data to check on the progress of different groups of pupils is not sufficiently developed.

The headteacher's monitoring indicates that the quality of teaching has improved greatly and nine out of ten lessons are judged to be good or better. The accuracy of the headteacher's judgments is essential if the school is to improve rapidly. The school would benefit from an external validation of these judgments through joint lesson observations, checking on the quality of pupils' work in books and confirming the accuracy of the assessment data.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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 that the school development plan has time-scales for putting actions into practice so that there is a clear emphasis on the Ofsted areas for improvement
- ensure that the governing body receives training so that it can effectively use the pupils' achievement data to keep a check on the progress of all groups of pupils
- externally validate the headteacher's judgments on the quality of teaching through joint observations, checking on the quality of pupils' work in books and confirming the accuracy of the assessment data.

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

External support

Since the last inspection, the local authority has provided support to ensure that there is continuity in leadership, following the resignation of the deputy headteacher, and encouraging the middle leaders to apply for nationally accredited training. Before the next HMI visit, the local authority has agreed to ensure that the external review of the school is carried out as outlined above

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

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector

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