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14 January 2013

Susan Camp
Headteacher
Forres Primary School
Stanstead Road
Hoddesdon
EN11 0RW

Dear Mrs Camp

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

Following my visit to your school on 18 January 2013, 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 on the 6 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the assistant headteacher, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. The headteacher accompanied the inspector on a tour of the school.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

Main findings

Senior leaders have produced a suitable action plan that sets out how the school intends to improve in the areas identified at the last inspection. Links with a local outstanding school have been created to support teachers and leaders in developing

their skills. Governors are keen to monitor the effectiveness of the actions taken. They are determined to see rapid improvement. Governors are not always clear about their role in monitoring and want to review their structures and systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Teachers and leaders are beginning to talk much more about progress and attainment for different groups of pupils. Regular meetings are planned to discuss the progress of different groups so poor progress can be tackled and interventions planned. Senior leaders are in no doubt about the amount of work there is to do to improve outcomes, particularly in mathematics.

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:

- seek an external review of governance
- arrange for the subject leader for mathematics to attend training to become a specialist in mathematics.

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

External support

The local authority has organised a good range of support for the school. They have provided support and challenge to leaders to support them in making improvements. The link with an outstanding primary school is to be further supported by consultants and advisors working alongside teachers and leaders. The local authority has put in place robust monitoring arrangements that ensure the school is in no doubt about the need to improve rapidly.

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

Yours sincerely

Michael Sheridan
Her Majesty's Inspector