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18 January 2012

Mrs Nicola Tettmar
The Headteacher
Hart Plain Junior School
Hart Plain Avenue
Cowplain
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO8 8SA

Dear Mrs Tettmar

Special measures monitoring inspection of Hart Plain Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 17 January 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the 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 recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2012.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the two assistant headteachers, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, and the District Manager and the Leadership and Learning Partner from the local authority. The school's single central staffing record was reviewed; the local authority's statement of action and the school's raising attainment plan were evaluated. The inspector undertook a learning walk alongside senior leaders.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection a class teacher has left the school and a new teacher has been seconded to the school until July 2013. The school has appointed three additional learning support assistants.

The governing body has been restructured, and three governors have left. Three new governors have been appointed and two vacancies remain on the governing body.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Following the section 5 inspection, leaders, managers and governors have already taken swift action to begin to address the areas identified for improvement. School leaders and governors worked closely with the local authority to produce a statement of action which dovetails with the school's raising attainment plan. Together, these plans provide a clear sense of direction for the school, and identify how improvements will be made. This is helping the actions of leaders, managers and the governing body to be rigorously focused on accelerating the progress pupils make and improving the quality of teaching and learning, particularly in mathematics. However, the raising attainment plan does not include enough interim milestones against which progress can be measured. The plan does not fully reflect the role of the governing body in challenging and holding the school to account. In order to ensure that leaders and managers are communicating their high expectations as clearly as possible through the plan, the areas identified for improvement from the section 5 inspection need to feature more prominently as headings.

Leaders and managers are beginning to have an impact on improving consistency in the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school; although, they recognise there is still some way to go. They are working hard to minimise unhelpful staffing changes and the negative impact this can have on pupils' progress.

The governing body is in a stronger position than at the time of the section 5 inspection. It has been reorganised and meetings are better attended. Additional governors have brought skills and expertise with them that are valued by the school. Governors are getting better at holding the school to account. They ask questions, for example about how well resources are being used to improve the quality of provision and outcomes for different groups of pupils. This includes for those for whom the school receives additional funding such as through the pupil premium.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made.

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's raising attainment plan is fit for purpose. However, during the evaluation of the raising attainment plan the following points were discussed, which the headteacher and governors agreed would be helpful in making the plan clearer:

- refine the plan so that the role of the governing body in challenging and holding the school to account is made more explicit
- incorporate specific timescales, including interim milestones against which progress can be measured
- ensure the areas identified for improvement in the section 5 inspection report feature more prominently as headings.

The school may appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Gehane Gordelier
Her Majesty's Inspector