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16 January 2013

Mrs Mykela Horton
Headteacher
St Edmund's CofE (C) Primary School
Church Hill Avenue
Mansfield Woodhouse
Mansfield
NG19 9JU

Dear Mrs Horton

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Edmund's CofE (C) Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 16 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 31 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 other senior leaders, as well as a group of pupils. Telephone conversations were held with a representative of the governing body and an associate adviser from the local authority. The school improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant contextual changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded with urgency to the areas identified for improvement at the recent section 5 inspection and the school improvement plan has been updated to take account of these. Action planning is precise, with clear milestones

and measurable success criteria against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated. Immediate action has been taken to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning. For example, the marking policy has been revised. As a result, pupils report that they are being provided with improved and more detailed academic guidance so that they can check and correct their work and understand what they need to do to improve and meet their targets.

Subject coordinators are benefitting from appropriate training and support. They are beginning to be involved in a range of monitoring activities, including lesson observations. Subject coordinators indicate that they feel well supported and are developing a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in securing improvements in pupils' performance.

The Governing Body has also made a positive response to the recommendations in the previous report. It has undergone some restructuring and now includes a curriculum and standards committee. The recently introduced monitoring summary reports are providing governors with detailed information on pupils' progress and, as a result, they are holding senior leaders more rigorously to account for pupils' achievement.

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 recommends a further one day visit to carry out a series of joint lesson observations with senior leaders to support the school in improving the quality of teaching and learning.

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

External support

The local authority has recently appointed an associate adviser to support the school. She has already carried out two visits to the school and is quickly becoming familiar with the school and the areas identified for improvement at the recent section 5 inspection. A clear and focused plan of support is in place, including partnership working with other schools to share good practice.

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

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate
Her Majesty's Inspector