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24 January 2013

Mrs S Arnold
Executive Headteacher
Woodseats Primary School
Chesterfield Road
Sheffield
S8 0SB

Dear Mrs Arnold

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

Following my visit to your school on 23 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 in November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the executive headteacher, head of school, subject leaders, the Chair and another member of the Governing Body and a school improvement officer from the local authority. The post Ofsted action plan was also evaluated.

Context

The executive headteacher took up her appointment at the beginning of January 2013. Curriculum leaders for English, mathematics and assessment have been in place since the commencement of the spring term 2013.

Main findings

The senior leadership team has only been in place a short time but has quickly identified where improvements are required. The management structure has been reviewed. Phase and subject leaders have been established and clear lines of accountability have been put in place. The priority of the senior leadership team is to improve the quality of teaching and learning and this is reflected in the school improvement plan. Non-negotiable elements in relation to classroom practise are currently being developed so that professional expectations are clear to all staff. The link between the performance management process

and ensuring that individual teachers are held to account for the quality of their work is not strong enough and this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Subject leaders are aware of the issues that must be dealt with in order to enhance pupils' progress. At present they do not possess all the requisite management skills necessary to bring about rapid change and effectively support the drive to bring about improvement. This is not a reflection of their enthusiasm or potential; it is because they have not been in post long enough to benefit from planned support and coaching. The governing body is supportive of the headteacher and staff. However, governors do not give enough attention to checking and evaluating the main work of the school and this includes the relationship between teaching and learning and the extent to which it is effectively promoted by school managers.

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:

- strengthen the performance management process so that all teachers are held to account for their work
- develop the skills and knowledge of subject leaders so that they are well-placed to support the drive to raise achievement
- ensure that members of the governing body receive guidance, support and training so that they can monitor the work of the school effectively.

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

External support

The local authority is providing effective support to the school. The need for additional support, by the local authority, for subject leaders and the governing body was discussed with a representative of the local authority during the visit.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Keeler
Her Majesty's Inspector