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Mrs Susan Tuff
Headteacher
Cavendish Primary School
Hall Road
Eccleshill
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD2 2DU

Dear Mrs Tuff

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

Following my visit to your school on 24 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 headteacher, senior leaders the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement and action plans were evaluated. The headteacher and deputy headteacher accompanied the inspector to a series of brief visits to lessons. The inspector evaluated the school's arrangements to manage teachers' performance and looked at a sample of pupils' work.

Context

A new headteacher has been appointed and is due to take up her post in September 2013 after the current headteacher retires. There have been no other significant appointments or changes to the school's context.

Main findings

The headteacher, capably assisted by senior leaders, has wasted no time in improving teaching. Within two weeks of the previous inspection, teachers attended training on how to make sure more able pupils have challenging work to do. Pupils' books now show they have regular opportunities to write in a range of subjects and they are writing longer pieces.

The school's improvement plan and action plans are clear and prioritise, in most cases, the right things. Leaders have included sensible ways to measure how successful actions have been. The timescales for checking on the progress the school is making demonstrates senior leaders' expectations for improvements to happen quickly. However, there is not enough emphasis in the plans on how achievement and other things, such as attendance and behaviour, will improve for particular groups of pupils. For example, the school knows that pupils entitled to additional help from pupil premium funding do not make as much progress as other groups but actions to improve matters are not mentioned specifically in the plans.

Members of the governing body have produced their own action plan to improve the work they are doing. This is helping them to make the most of their visits to the school. They have been successful in recruiting an experienced headteacher. The governing body has sound plans to ensure the pace of improvement is maintained.

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 recommend that further action is taken to:

- amend the school improvement plan and action plans to ensure that actions to improve the progress of different groups of pupils are clearly stated.

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

External support

The school has benefited from the local authority's effective support. This has included help in securing time for middle leaders to sharpen their leadership skills with a National Leader in Education. Members of the governing body have also been supported by the local authority in improving the checks they make on the quality of the school's work.

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

Yours sincerely

Joan Hewitt

Her Majesty's Inspector