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4 February 2013

Hilary Faulkner
Headteacher
Court Lane Junior School
Hilary Avenue
Cosham
Portsmouth
PO6 2PP

Dear Mrs Faulkner

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Court Lane Junior School

Following my visit to your school on Friday 1 February 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, other senior leaders, pupils and the governing body. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes in context since the last inspection.

Main findings

Leaders fully accept the priorities identified by the recent inspection and are tackling these issues assiduously. Leaders have, for example, identified a range of features that they expect to see in every lesson. They are visiting lessons regularly to ensure that all teachers are following these guidelines. Much has been achieved in the past

few weeks and pupils recognise the improvements that have been made. They say, for example, that work in lessons is now more challenging.

Senior leaders have revised the school improvement plan. The new plan focuses sharply on the key areas. Planned actions have clear success criteria which identify more precisely what the school is trying to achieve. Targets now focus more explicitly on the progress that pupils should make as they move through each year group. However, too many of the actions in the plan are identified as the direct responsibility of the headteacher, rather than other leaders in the school.

Leaders monitor and check the school's work carefully, for example by observing lessons and checking teachers' planning. A comprehensive plan is in place to identify when particular monitoring activities will take place.

The governing body continues to contribute positively to the school's improvement. Its members are knowledgeable about the school and they challenge its leaders. Governors undertake visits and other activities to check on the school for themselves. They have not yet written a comprehensive plan to identify how they will monitor and check the school's progress against the new improvement plan.

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:

- develop a detailed plan to identify how governors will check progress against the new school improvement plan
- reduce the number of activities in the school improvement plan for which the headteacher has direct responsibility, reallocating these to other members of the leadership team.

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

External support

The local authority is providing effective support for the school. The school's link advisor helped leaders to review and redevelop the school improvement plan. She has also helped to make links with other schools in the area, for example to support the development of mathematics.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Russell
Her Majesty's Inspector