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Chris Ball
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Dear Miss Ball

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

Following my visit to your school on 4 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, two members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. A learning walk was completed with the headteacher. The school improvement plans were also evaluated.

Context

A new Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body have taken up post since the inspection since the school's section 5 inspection.

Main findings

The headteacher and governors are leading changes in the school with enthusiasm. Together they have:

- taken appropriate steps to identify the actions that need to be taken
- made sure that governors are proficient in asking the right questions and have a good understanding of pupils' progress
- made better use of information on how well pupils are doing to set more challenging targets
- looked at ways of strengthening the school's links with parents and carers so that they can support their children's learning at home.

Members of the governing body regularly discuss the actions that need to be taken in order for the school to become good. They have undertaken an independent analysis of the how well pupils are doing across the school. However, they do not always compare their findings to how well pupils are achieving in other schools nationally

Some of the actions and targets in the school's action plan lack sharpness because the impact is not measurable. Results from the regular to visits classrooms or checks on pupils' workbooks sometimes lack enough detail so that teachers do not always have clear guidance to help them improve.

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:

- ensure that feedback to teachers focuses on the achievement of different groups and pinpoint the particular aspects of teaching that need most improvement
- use the information from lesson observations and checks on pupils' workbooks to help teachers plan the next steps in pupils' learning
- include numerical targets in the school's action plan to help the governing body to judge whether actions have been successful in raising pupils' attainment and quickening their progress.

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

External support

The local authority is providing suitable support. A review of the school's action plan has taken place with appropriate advice given on how to make it more effective. The local authority has arranged for the staff in the Early Years Foundation Stage to work with a specialist in this area. Further opportunities are planned to help the teachers observe good practice in other schools.

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

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Wordsworth
Her Majesty's Inspector