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8 February 2013

Mrs Mandy Lancy
Headteacher
Feltham Hill Junior School
Ashford Road
Feltham
TW13 4QP

Dear Mrs Lancy

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Feltham Hill Junior School

Following my visit to your school on Friday 8 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, deputy and assistant headteachers, a representative from the local authority and with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body. The school development plan was evaluated. Documentation about performance management, minutes of governing body meetings, lesson observation forms and achievement data were scrutinised. The headteacher also took the HMI on a tour of the school.

Context

Since the last inspection one teacher has left the school and one teacher is about to start maternity leave.

Main findings

The headteacher and senior leaders are working with energy and determination to plan and lead improvement at the school. Leaders have used the areas for improvement from the recent inspection to develop an action plan. It includes well-focused priorities, roles and responsibilities and some measurement points this year. However, the plan needs more regular check points to test the impact of leaders work and success criteria need more quantifiable achievement data. Senior leaders are now holding middle leaders to account more frequently. All leaders are setting higher expectations for the rates of progress that pupils must achieve. There is better use of data to track pupils' progress. This is starting to be used more purposefully in planning lessons that meet the needs of all pupils.

The headteacher is making good use of an external coach to help senior leaders improve the quality of teaching. There are good teacher training sessions for the whole school and for individual teachers. Through an effective coaching programme leaders are setting improvement targets for teachers and through regular lesson observations, insightful feedback and use of work scrutiny, teachers are becoming more reflective in developing their practice from satisfactory to good. The headteacher recognises that an overhaul of long and medium term planning for teaching writing at the school is an urgent priority.

The governing body ask searching questions of leaders to monitor pupils' achievement and judge how well leaders are developing the quality and consistency of teaching. Minutes of governing body meetings show high levels of challenge and good debate to test reports by the headteacher. The governing body monitors the impact of Pupil Premium funding and is beginning to require leaders to provide more detailed analyses of the impact of professional training to help teachers improve their work. Governors are starting to ask challenging questions about pupils' progress compared with national expectations but the governing body requires further training in using data to examine progress of different groups of pupils. Governors have audited their skills and the Chair identifies training courses that benefit the work of the governing body. The governing body is committed to supporting leaders to move the school forward with the urgency needed to tackle areas for improvement that are preventing the school from being good.

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:

- amend the action plan to include more regular milestones to check the progress of the school and include more quantifiable achievement data in the success criteria
- work with the local authority to audit training needs for governors and ensure that an action plan for developing governance helps governors evaluate their work in helping the school become a good school.

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

External support

The local authority provides good support to the school and has an accurate view of the strengths and priorities that need rapid improvement. Through regular monitoring visits the local authority advisers provide guidance for developing teaching and have begun to review how the teaching of writing is planned for across the school. The local authority adviser agreed with the HMI to establish further training for governors and broker further support for leaders by working in partnership with an outstanding junior school.

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

Yours sincerely

Joanna Beckford-Hall
Her Majesty's Inspector