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7 February 2013

Mr R Adams
Headteacher
Pennoweth Primary School
Drump Road
Redruth
Cornwall
TR15 1NA

Dear Mr Adams

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Pennoweth Primary School

Following my visit to your school on Wednesday 6 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 you and other senior leaders as well as with three governors, including the Chair and Vice Chair. A discussion with a senior school improvement manager from the local authority took place by telephone. The school's development plan was evaluated and samples of teachers' planning and pupils' work considered. A meeting was also held with a group of pupils from Years 4 and 5.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

You acted quickly to plan for improvement following the inspection report, with support from senior staff and the governing body. The school development plan is sharply focused on six key priorities that are linked closely with the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection report. The plan lacks a priority on developing the effectiveness of the governing body and is not clear enough about how governors should check the work of the school.

The school is acting swiftly to improve the quality of teaching. Personalised support for individual staff involves key stage or subject leaders working with teachers to plan, teach and evaluate lessons together. The school is adopting 'Achievement for All' (a programme to raise the aspirations of pupils with special educational needs) and this is beginning to make a positive contribution to improving teaching. Expectations of the progress that pupils should make are high and the school is checking on the achievement of particular groups effectively. Teachers are starting to take account of how well pupils respond to activities to help plan the next lesson. Changes to the curriculum are being piloted in Years 4 and 5 and early indications are that pupils find this approach more engaging, for example in their current topic on Kenya. The school is in the process of upgrading its desktop and laptop computers and has purchased new software.

The governing body has been reconstituted and new governors have joined while others have stepped down. New members have brought a breadth of experience that ranges from leading a children's centre to senior leadership in a secondary school. An induction pack has been developed and training has already been provided for all governors on the data available on pupils' attainment and progress. At its next meeting, the governing body is to clarify the purpose of governors' visits to the school and to consider a report showing the impact of the spending of the 'pupil premium' (additional government funding).

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:

- include actions to develop the effectiveness of the governing body in the development plan
- identify governors' role in monitoring and evaluating progress with the plan.

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

External support

The school draws effectively on support from the local authority. This has included the work of a school improvement partner, a recent review undertaken by a local

authority team, training for governors, support with the development plan and advice on staffing matters.

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

Yours sincerely

Grahame Sherfield
Her Majesty's Inspector