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12 February 2013

Mrs Sue Roberts
Headteacher
Haddenham Junior School
Woodways
Haddenham
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP17 8DS

Dear Mrs Roberts

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

Following my visit to your school on Tuesday 12 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 December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, members of the Governing Body including the Chair and Vice-Chair, and two representatives of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated.

Context

There have not been any changes since the recent inspection.

Main findings

School leaders have responded positively to the last inspection report. They have focused more tightly on improving the consistency and quality of teaching although it is too early for these new approaches to have had a marked impact on the rate of

progress pupils make. More emphasis is being given to planning work that challenges all groups of pupils, including the less able. Pupils now have more opportunities to be involved in their own learning and are beginning to indicate in their books how well they think they are doing. All teachers are beginning to use their sharper assessment data to help them target individual pupils' learning needs more effectively. The embryonic archive of assessed pupils' work is too thin to demonstrate fully how well pupils make progress through the school. Teaching assistants are being involved more in the planning of lessons. However, these new approaches and procedures are not fully embedded yet.

All teachers are encouraged to be leaders of their areas of responsibility. They are much more open with each other about sharing good practice and seeking ways to overcome weaknesses in teaching. This is beginning to enhance the quality of leadership in the school. The headteacher has introduced a number of good strategies and procedures to help improve the quality of teaching and raise standards. Similarly, the Governing Body has sharpened its role of holding the school to account by forming a committee specifically designed to monitor and evaluate the school's improvement plan. The action plan is more focused on achieving school improvement but still lacks an indication as to when, and how regularly, it will be reviewed to evaluate its impact on pupil progress.

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:

- sharpen the school development plan to include more interim review points to indicate how well the school is making progress towards improving pupils' achievement.
- develop a fuller archive of assessed pupils' work to demonstrate more clearly how pupils make rapid progress through the school.
- ensure that the new approaches designed to improving the quality of teaching and learning are embedded consistently well across the school.

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

External support

The local authority has provided effective support through its school intervention programme. It is helping governors acquire the skills required to better hold senior leaders to account for the school's performance. Well-targeted training is also helping to improve the quality of teaching in mathematics and similar support is planned for English.

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

Yours sincerely

Peter Limm
Her Majesty's Inspector