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14 February 2013

Ms J Coyle
Headteacher
Wrenthorpe Primary School
Imperial Avenue
Wrenthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0LW

Dear Ms Coyle

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

Following my visit to your school on 11 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 and other senior leaders, members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plans were evaluated, a sample of monitoring records were scrutinised and a short tour of the school was undertaken.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the section 5 inspection, which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

The school's improvement plans are suitable for purpose. The headteacher and senior leadership team have a secure understanding of what needs to be done. They have begun to implement appropriate actions across the school in mathematics and the Early Years Foundation Stage and have set challenging targets for what they want to achieve in a short period of time. They are beginning to identify precise issues and have a series of actions to support improvement through training. These include using best practice in teaching to support wider improvement. However, greater stringency is required when moderating the school's judgements of the impact of teaching on pupils' achievement.

Governors are developing their role in quality assuring the impact that the school is having on pupils' achievement. Plans are developing to enable governors to seek the views of parents and pupils on the work of the school. The monitoring group governors have formed and the steps they are taking demonstrate a clear intent to make a difference to the school.

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 and the headteacher discussed and agreed that representatives of the school will attend an Ofsted seminar.

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

External support

The school has a generous amount of support from the local authority in the form of consultant time. While governors appreciate this expertise they have yet to consider how to use this additional resource to improve their ability to hold the school to account for the impact of its work.

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

Yours sincerely

Gina White
Her Majesty's Inspector