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Mrs Kate Stuart
Headteacher
Langland Community School
Langland Road
Netherfield
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK6 4HA

Dear Mrs Stuart

Special measures monitoring inspection of Langland Community School

Following my visit to your school on 14 February 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in November 2012.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, the senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body and chairs of the governing body committees, and a representative of the local authority. Discussions with the Director of Children's Services and the local leader of education, who is supporting the school, took place by telephone. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection in November there have been several staff changes. Three teachers have left. Five teachers joined the school on temporary contracts but four have since left. Two more teachers have been appointed and are due to start after half term. The Early Years Foundation Stage manager has been moved to teach in Year 1, while retaining her leadership responsibilities for the Nursery and Reception classes. The deputy headteacher has been absent through illness for much of this term and is due to go on maternity leave at half term.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The school has started to take action to bring about improvement, although there has been some slippage in its plans for several reasons. There has been a need to deal with the staff changes and less capacity within the senior team than was anticipated, and some changes to timetables have been necessary to make sure that the right people are available at the right time. Nevertheless, training and support for teachers to improve the quality of teaching have begun, and monitoring is identifying where improvements are required. The school is trying different strategies to deal with the most challenging behaviour in school and these have led to some initial success in reducing the number of pupils excluded. The school's action plan has evolved as more issues have come to light or as a result of suggestions made since the inspection and as a result it is too cluttered. Some key training for all staff is not included, nor is it clear how individuals will be supported to improve their teaching.

Governors understand that they have to challenge as well as support the school and are putting in place the systems to do this. The process of setting up committees to focus on different aspects of the school's work has been completed and governors are starting to receive information about the quality of teaching and pupils' performance. The recently formed Chairs' Committee will meet monthly to monitor the progress of the school's action plan. Governors acknowledge that they would benefit from further training and are in the process of completing an audit of their skills to identify exactly what is required.

The local authority is providing support to increase the leadership capacity within the school through its own officers and by commissioning through a local leader of education. A review of the effectiveness of the governing body is due to take place early next half term. Very recently the local authority has secured a co-headteacher who will work in the school for four days per week from the beginning of March. The 'targeted intervention board' (TIB), which holds local authority officers and the

school to account for progress, is meeting more frequently and from next month it will be chaired by an assistant director of children's services.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose. It would benefit from more specific timelines and clearer success criteria to make monitoring and evaluation easier.

The school's action plan is not fit for purpose. It is not sufficiently focused on the key actions that will improve teaching and pupils' achievement, or clear enough about how it will measure the impact of actions taken.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

This monitoring inspection letter will be published on the Ofsted website. I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Milton Keynes.

Yours sincerely

Alison Storey
Her Majesty's Inspector