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20 March 2013

Ms K Ashman
Headteacher
Moat Primary School
Juniper Avenue
Matson
Gloucester GL4 6AP

Dear Ms Ashman

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Moat Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 19 March 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, teaching staff, teaching assistants, pupils and a parent representative. The governing body's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

Context

A consultant headteacher provides additional support to the school for one day a week. The current headteacher's post is to be made substantive from 1 April 2013. A seconded deputy headteacher joined the school in January. The secondment runs until August 2013. The governing body are currently in negotiations with the Department for Education to become a sponsored academy.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Senior leaders and governors have fully accepted the inspection findings. All staff are ambitious for the school and are working hard to effect the necessary improvements. With guidance from the consultant headteacher and the determined leadership of the new headteacher, the school has created a detailed improvement plan which has informed the local authority's statement of action.

The school's action plan is appropriately succinct and covers the main improvement areas well. It shows exactly who is responsible for particular actions and sets out clear expectations and targets for the end of each academic year. For example, it has successfully introduced a robust assessment system that includes the tracking of pupils' phonic knowledge to inform small groups and pupils' progress. However, leaders acknowledge that a timeline to monitor the work of the school needs to be introduced in order to guard against slippage, monitor progress and celebrate success. The local authority monitors the work of the school through a focus project group to ensure progress against the actions for improvement.

Leaders and governors continue to work closely in partnership with an outstanding local school in order to secure good teaching and build a distributed leadership culture throughout the school. The seconded deputy headteacher works closely in a coaching and mentoring capacity with colleagues in Key Stage 2. The consultant headteacher provides a range of useful support and helps to monitor the work of the school, for example, by carrying out joint lesson observations, book reviews and data analysis on a regular basis. Pupils' writing remains a key area for improvement for the school, with presentation and marking identified as the next steps for development.

Members of the governing body possess a range of skills and expertise. They have a realistic understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses and provide the school with effective challenge as well as support.

The monitoring inspection resulted in the following judgements:

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

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

Yours sincerely

David Edwards
Her Majesty's Inspector