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Mrs Cleo Cunningham
Headteacher
Cavendish Close Junior School
Deborah Drive
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4RJ

Dear Mrs Cunningham

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

Following my visit to your school on 26 March 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 on 23 January 2013. 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, the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority, and a group of pupils. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the feedback to teachers following lesson observations and notes of pupil progress review meetings. The school improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

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

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded with urgency to the areas identified for improvement at the recent section 5 inspection. The school has devised specific action plans to

address the areas for improvement identified at the recent inspection. Action planning is precise, with clear milestones and measurable success criteria against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated.

Immediate action has been taken to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning. For example, the marking policy has been revised. As a result, pupils report that they are being provided with improved and more detailed academic guidance so that they can check and correct their work and understand what they need to do to improve and meet their targets. All staff are benefitting from appropriate training and support provided by the school's local authority adviser and external consultants.

The determination of year group leaders to make rapid improvements is evident. They are now regularly involved in monitoring teacher and learning, leading pupil progress review meetings and checking pupils' work. They are developing a clear understanding of their responsibilities in securing improvements in pupils' performance and as a result, leadership is strengthening.

The governing body has also made a positive response to the recommendations in the previous report. Members of the governing body are undertaking training designed to make it better able to hold the headteacher and other leaders to account for their work. Governors demonstrate that they are developing a better understanding of how to do this, although they recognise that they are not yet fully involved in evaluating the work of 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 recommends a further visit to support the headteacher in developing effective strategies to improve transition for Year 3 pupils.

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

External support

The local authority advisor and headteacher have worked in partnership to coordinate a range of appropriate support for staff. This is helping to improve the quality of teaching and learning and strengthen leadership. In addition, the local authority adviser has provided good support and guidance to the governing body which has been well tailored to meet their needs.

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

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate
Her Majesty's Inspector