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18 April 2013

Ryan McLay
Acting Headteacher
Winyates Primary School
Winyates
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough
PE2 5RF

Dear Mr McLay

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Winyates Primary School, Peterborough Local Authority.

Following my visit to your school on 17 April 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 5 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the acting headteacher, other senior leaders including the executive headteacher, the Vice Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and a group of pupils from Year 6. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the outcomes of monitoring activities and the most recent governing body minutes. The school's action plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the last inspection, a permanent teacher has been appointed in Year 4. The Reception Year teacher left at the end of the spring term 2013 and it is anticipated that a permanent teacher will be appointed for the autumn term 2013.



Main findings

The school has responded positively to the findings of the last inspection. The post-inspection action plan is sufficiently detailed. The actions relate directly to raising pupils' achievement and improving the quality of teaching. Although the plan includes measurable success criteria for pupils' attainment and progress, the proportion of teaching that will be judged to be outstanding is not clearly identified. The success of subject leaders, as measured by pupils' performance, is also not clearly stipulated. Senior leaders have drawn up a helpful timetable which identifies how they will monitor and evaluate the impact of actions being taken to secure improvements. In practice, this timetable is being followed robustly, with a particular focus on how well pupils are making progress across the school.

Senior leaders have responded with sufficient urgency and have taken immediate action to:

- raise teachers' expectations about pupils' learning, particularly in mathematics, through coaching and feedback to individual teachers on lessons observed
- bring more rigour to the tracking of pupils' progress by class teachers, so that they can account for how well underachievement is being tackled
- secure improvements to pupils' spelling skills using a broad range of actions, striking a balance between teacher direction and pupil self-assessment
- implement changes to teachers' following up with pupils the points made for improving their work, including giving them time in lessons to reflect and make corrections
- develop subject leaders' skills in monitoring and evaluation, for example, through carrying out joint lesson observations with senior leaders.

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 recommend that further action is taken to:

- amend the school improvement plan to include details about how much of the teaching is expected to be outstanding by the end of the academic year 2013
- clearly spell out in the school improvement plan the link between the impact of middle leaders' work and pupils' achievement.

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

External support

The local authority initiated the school's 'soft' federation with a successful local school. This is now being used to share best practices in teaching to help raise the proportion of teaching that is good or better. An external mathematics consultant has held training sessions for all staff to help lift the quality of teaching and learning in this subject.



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

Yours sincerely

Dilip Kadodwala
Her Majesty's Inspector