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22 April 2013

Miss Julie Wilson
Fladbury CofE First School
Church Street
Fladbury
Persnore
WR10 2QB

Dear Miss Wilson

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Fladbury CofE First School

Following my visit to your school on 22 April 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, Chair of the Governing Body and the school's improvement adviser. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

There have been no staff or other significant changes since the section 5 inspection which judged the school to have serious weaknesses.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The local authority statement of action clearly identifies the support to be provided by the local authority. The timescale within which actions are planned and the resources to be allocated are clearly specified. The local authority plans to undertake termly inspections of the school. The first local authority inspection in April 2013 pinpointed what the school was doing well and what must be improved.

The school improvement plan appropriately focuses on the two main weaknesses, and senior leaders and governors have begun to take suitable action to improve teaching and its impact and leadership and management. There are some action planning shortcomings which must be rectified. For example, one of the weaknesses identified in the last inspection report, relating to improving marking and pupil target setting, are not mentioned in the improvement plan, although action is being taken to improve marking and target setting procedures. Some initiatives used to bring about improvement are not specified in the plan, and success criteria and financial costings are not always specific enough. The monitoring role of governors is not made sufficient explicit.

The governing body has been re-organised and this has improved communication between the headteacher, staff and governors. Governors are now linked to subjects and other areas of the school, resulting in them being more aware of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They now provide better challenge and support to drive improvement. Governors have received training to ensure that they fulfil their statutory duties and have systems in place to call senior leaders to account for the school's outcomes. For example, a project board has been set up and its members are appropriately monitoring the progress made in rectifying the areas for improvement identified in January 2013. Suitable arrangements are in place to inform parents and others about the extent of the school's improvement. All staff and others who come into contact with children have been suitably vetted.

The single central record does not contain all of the required information; the date of checks and the person carrying them out are not always specified.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's 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 Worcestershire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

David Rzeznik
Additional Inspector