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29 April 2013

Ms Donna Tandy
Headteacher
Quay Primary School
Oxford Street
Bridlington
YO16 4LB

Dear Ms Tandy

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Quay Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 26 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 in February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the David Ross Foundation, the sponsor of the imminent academy arrangements. I reviewed the school's development plan and lesson observation records with the headteacher. In addition, I held brief conversations with staff during the afternoon break.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection the interim headteacher has been appointed to the substantive post, effective from September 2013. The post of deputy headteacher has been advertised. The school is set to convert to an academy on 1 September 2013.

Main findings

The interim headteacher has been the driving force in taking swift action to improve the quality of teaching. She has prioritised the need to raise pupils' attainment in writing by implementing a detailed week-by-week plan that clearly identifies opportunities to develop pupils' skills in writing across all subjects. Documentation contains helpful prompts which point teachers to activities that will enable them to better meet the learning needs of different groups of pupils – another aspect of teaching identified in the section 5 inspection report which requires improvement. Already, an audit of teaching assistants' skills has informed agreed changes in the use of this group of staff from September.

The interim headteacher is taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

A review of governance has not been undertaken. The governing body has been slow to respond to the inspection findings. The work of the governing body is hampered by its membership not being at full strength and also by a lack of understanding of what to do or how to do it. The local authority has not done enough to support the governing body either before or since the section 5 inspection to help them carry out their role effectively.

Governors and the local authority are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Immediate action should be taken to:

- ensure that a review of governance is undertaken
- strengthen the skills of the governing body so that collectively, governors are better placed to prioritise, plan and undertake activities that will increase their contribution to school leadership.

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

External support

Informal links with two good schools locally are supporting improvement work. The approach used in deploying teaching assistants to support pupils' learning at New Pastures Primary School has informed a review and subsequent changes to the role of teaching assistants at Quay Primary. A link with Flamborough Church of England Primary School is being used to develop teaching quality. In planning improvements to teaching the headteacher has valued the work of the local authority's Primary Advisor. However, the local authority has not done enough to strengthen governance in this school.

Yours sincerely

Cathryn Kirby

Her Majesty's Inspector

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for East Riding of Yorkshire.