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Mr J Davison
Headteacher
Wilsden Primary School
Tweedy Street
Wilsden
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD15 0AE

Dear Mr Davison

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit to Wilsden Primary School on 26 April 2013

Following my visit to your school on 26 April, 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 December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

I held meetings with the headteacher and with senior leaders, with three members of the governing body, with a school improvement partner and a representative of the local authority. During my visit I evaluated the school's improvement plans, looked at documents relating to the work of the school and was taken on a tour of the school.

Context

Since the inspection, two teachers have left the school and three more have resigned. A new Assistant Headteacher joined the school at Easter and the school is currently recruiting new teachers for September 2013.

Main findings

Leaders, governors and the local authority were surprised by the inspection judgement and hold a more robust view of the quality of teaching and learning than that stated in the inspection report. They are united in an ambition to ensure the school will improve to good and have communicated their raised expectations to everyone at the school. Appropriate plans are in place to support those teachers who are identified as needing to improve. This

has resulted in some movement of staff. Nevertheless, leaders, governors and the local authority see this as an opportunity to bring about further improvements to the quality of teaching and learning.

Leaders and managers are clear about the school's improvement agenda and are working together with an external consultant to sharpen their monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning. They have undertaken a scrutiny of teachers' marking and they have moderated pupils' work to ensure that teachers' assessments are accurate and secure. They have carried out joint observations of teaching to ensure there is a shared understanding of what is meant by 'good teaching'. This has resulted in clear feedback to teachers of what is going well and which areas need improvement.

Members of the governing body are clear about what the school needs to do to improve. They have received training to support their understanding of the school's performance data to enable them to hold leaders to account. However, governors, and senior leaders accept that, in order to do this, the school's improvement plan needs to be sharpened to enable them to accurately check school's progress to 'good'.

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:

- improve the school's action plans to include more detailed information from monitoring of the schools work, clear links between actions and the intended success criteria with precise, measurable criteria and milestones

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

External support

The local authority has worked with school governors to support their understanding of the school's performance data. In collaboration with a cluster of local schools external consultants have delivered training and support for leaders this has resulted in greater clarity among leaders about expectations and the standards required when monitoring the work of the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Guy
Her Majesty's Inspector