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Mrs Linda Burgess
Headteacher
Langley Mill Junior School
Bailey Brook Crescent
Langley Mill
Nottingham
NG16 4FZ

Dear Mrs Burgess

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Langley Mill Junior School, Derbyshire local authority.

Following my visit to your school on 9 May 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 I met with you, the deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. I evaluated the school improvement plan and a range of school documentation. This included the school self-evaluation form, data relating to pupils' attainment and progress and the analysis of that data as well as minutes of recent governing body meetings. You took me on a tour of the school and we made brief visits to all classes.

Context

Since the previous inspection, the coordinator for mathematics has taken maternity leave and has been temporarily replaced.

Main findings

Leaders and managers, including governors, and staff have readily accepted the findings from the inspection in February. A number of 'quick fixes' were put into place immediately after the inspection while an action plan was drawn up. This action plan supplements the areas for improvement that were already in the school development plan and was compiled in consultation with all staff and governors. Some of the targets were too general to enable sharp evaluation of the effectiveness of action taken and so these were revised during my visit.

You and your deputy headteacher have a strong sense of purpose and all staff are enthusiastic and committed to making 'Langley Mill a good school'. You are well aware of the main actions required to ensure good outcomes by the next inspection. We ascertained that there are two important things to accomplish: ensuring that teaching in most lessons is consistently good or better, and ensuring that pupils make good progress in every lesson.

We looked at the tracking of pupils' progress across the school and how it is measured. We adapted the current system to measure gains in average points scores (a national measure of attainment) over time to ensure the promotion of good progress levels across the school. Therefore, in future, targets will be based on most pupils gaining at least four average points per year in each subject.

The essential actions required for improvement are already underway. These include:

- training to improve the teaching of literacy
- establishing clear expectations for teachers in assessing pupils' learning
- the introduction of regular line management meetings for teachers who hold positions of responsibility.

At the last inspection it was recommended that an external review of governance be undertaken. This review has not yet taken place because you have had difficulty in finding the right contact. I will therefore make sure that you have the details that you need in order to get this underway.

Senior leaders and the governing body are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- publish the revised targets in the action plan so that expectations are clear to all staff and governors
- translate these expectations into performance targets for all teachers
- adapt your assessment tracking system to measure gains in average points scores across each year
- arrange for an external review of governance to be undertaken.

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

External support

The local authority has given much useful support and guidance since the recent inspection. The school has been identified by the local authority as a priority school and one requiring additional support. The school improvement adviser maintains close contact with the school and provides good guidance and an accurate view of how well the school is progressing. She has also helped the school throughout the improvement planning process following the recent inspection. Consultants have been deployed to assist in developments in literacy and early reading.

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

Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough
Her Majesty's Inspector