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8 May 2013

Miss Caroline Breslin
Interim Headteacher
East Halton Primary School
College Road
East Halton
Immingham
Lincolnshire
DN40 3PJ

Dear Miss Breslin

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to East Halton Primary School, North Lincolnshire

Following my visit to your school on 7 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, meetings were held with the interim headteacher, the lead teacher, middle leaders from Goxhill Primary School, members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority and a group of pupils. A number of documents presented were evaluated, including the school's action plan. The interim headteacher took the HMI on a tour of the school.

Context

Discussions continue about the formation of a hard federation between East Halton Primary School and Goxhill Primary School, with the proposed start date for the formal partnership delayed from 3 June 2013 until 1 September 2013. The interim headteacher at East Halton Primary School is the headteacher of Goxhill Primary School.

There have been no staff changes since the last inspection.

Main findings

Since the last inspection the interim headteacher has tackled the areas for improvement with enthusiasm and there are action plans in place which address the areas for improvement, although some of the success criteria are not measurable or time limited. School records suggest that the quality of teaching and the progress made by pupils is improving. However inconsistencies still exist.

Middle leaders from Goxhill Primary School, under the leadership of the interim headteacher are supporting the development of teaching and learning, ensuring that pupils are actively engaged in their learning and that planning matches the needs of individual pupils. Pupils are able to describe better organisation of their lessons and increased challenge. They know their targets and recognise that marking in their books is helping them to understand how to improve.

The work being done to mentor teachers and monitor the quality of their teaching has been well received. Scrutiny of data and progress conversations led by the middle leaders from Goxhill Primary School are leading to appropriate interventions to raise pupils' achievement and are beginning to impact on pupils' learning.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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:

- strengthen the action plan so that the success criteria are measurable and have clear dates for completion
- embed the changes which are starting to improve teaching and learning
- continue to monitor the impact of changes in teaching and learning, organisation and the curriculum
- make sure that the local authority and the governors resolve the future direction of the school as quickly as possible

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

External support

Well organised links are in place with Goxhill Primary School which are having a positive impact on improving the quality of teaching and pupils' progress. More work is planned and teachers from East Halton Primary School have benefitted from observing practice at Goxhill Primary School.

Local authority officers are engaged in resolving the issues which are slowing the pace at which the hard federation is formed. Progress board meetings led by the local authority to measure the progress being made have not started yet but are due to be held half termly.

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

Yours sincerely

Helen Lane
Her Majesty's Inspector