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8 May 2013

Ms Karon Wittmann
Headteacher
Summerfield Primary School
Intake Lane
Bramley
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS13 1DQ

Dear Ms Wittmann

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Summerfield Primary School, Leeds

Following my visit with Phil Smith HMI 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 headteacher and senior leaders, governors, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority. In addition, discussions were also held with a national leader and a local leader of education who are supporting the leadership of the school. The inspectors evaluated a range of documentation including: the school improvement plan, the tracking of pupils' progress and records of lesson observations. A tour of the school to look briefly at teaching and learning was also conducted.

Context

Since the inspection, a teacher who was deployed to work with Year 5 has returned to take responsibility for Year 3.

Main findings

Since the inspection, senior leaders have done a great deal to lay the foundations for improvements in the quality of teaching and in strengthening leadership. All staff are

stepping up to the mark, expectations have been raised and staff are increasingly receptive to new ideas. As a consequence, the pace of change has accelerated, significant steps to prioritise actions have been taken and there is a strong momentum for improving the school.

Systems to check on the quality of teaching are gathering pace and have been tightened. Senior leaders are regularly checking on the quality of lessons and pupils' work. Teachers are provided with clear targets for improvement as required with links to the new Teachers' Standards and to pupils' progress. This is leading to an improved understanding by teachers of what constitutes effective practice and the progress that pupils should make.

The post inspection action plan closely follows the areas for improvement identified in the inspection in February and provides a clear direction for the school. However, some of the targets and milestones for measuring success are not as sharp as they could be to fully inform staff and governors about how successfully the school is improving over-time.

Governors are aware of why the school is not yet good. They know what is being done to improve provision and the actions required. They are well informed about the school's performance and of the links between pupils' progress and the quality of teaching. Their actions are demonstrating a clear understanding of the school's most pressing priorities and a resolve to challenge senior leaders and hold them to account.

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:

- sharpen the school action plan to include clear and measurable targets against which success can be judged over-time.

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

External support

The support from the local authority has been well targeted and effective. The guidance provided by the national leader and local leader of education along with the work of consultants is helping to improve the quality of pupils' learning and strengthen the skills of leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Steve Isherwood
Her Majesty's Inspector