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Mrs Jane Richardson
Headteacher
Crosland Moor Junior School
Dryclough Road
Crosland Moor
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD4 5HX

Dear Mrs Richardson

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Crosland Moor Junior School, Kirklees

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, meetings were held with the headteacher, middle leaders, governors, a group of pupils and two representatives of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated along with records of lesson observations and the reviews of local authority visits. In addition, the headteacher took the HMI on a tour of the school to look briefly at teaching and learning and the changes made to provision following the inspection.

Context

Governors are shortly to make two new appointments to staffing. This will include an assistant headteacher with responsibility for teaching and learning and a teacher who will lead on literacy.

Main findings

The school has moved on well in the weeks since the inspection in spite of some significant disruption to staffing. No time has been lost, everyone is stepping up to the mark and the collective responsibility for improving the school has strengthened. Decisive action has been taken to improve the quality of teaching and develop the roles of middle leaders to impact

more effectively on school improvement. Senior leaders have also focused effectively on improving provision in mathematics with greater attention given by teachers to ensuring that tasks and activities for more able pupils are sufficiently challenging.

Pupils can sense the improvements being made to their lessons. 'Learning is more fun now' and 'we get to do more interesting things', were typical comments.

The school improvement plan provides a clear direction for the school and closely matches the areas identified for improvement. Senior leaders are aware that there is still some scope for enhancing the plan further with some sharper targets for measuring success to fully inform staff and governors about how successfully the school is improving overtime.

Governance is becoming sharper-edged. Monitoring systems are tighter and are bringing a sense of urgency to improving the school. Governors are well aware of the school's most pressing priorities and the actions being taken to turn things around.

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 targets and milestones for measuring success in the school improvement plan.

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

External support

The support from the local authority is well tailored to the school's priorities. The impact of this work can be seen in the recent improvements to provision and in pupils' progress along with the strengthening of middle leadership. The local authority is committed to building the capacity of staff at all levels to enable them to monitor the quality of provision and use the outcomes of this to inform strategies for improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Steve Isherwood
Her Majesty's Inspector