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20 May 2013

Mrs C Dickson
Headteacher
New Earswick Primary School Undenominational Voluntary Aided
Hawthorn Terrace
New Earswick
York
North Yorkshire
YO32 4BY

Dear Mrs Dickson

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to New Earswick Primary School Undenominational Voluntary Aided, York

Following my visit to your school on 17 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 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the senior leaders, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. A range of documentation was evaluated including the school and governance improvement plans, a sample of monitoring records and pupils' work. I undertook a brief tour of the school accompanied by the headteacher.

Context

The deputy headteacher appointed prior to the section 5 inspection, joined the school in April 2013.

Main findings

The school improvement plans are suitable for purpose and follow closely the areas for further improvement identified during the inspection in March. The plans give a detailed picture of intended actions and milestones over the short and longer term. However, as yet there are too few targets and success criteria that focus sharply and specifically enough on intended outcomes for each year group, or that are matched to the needs of different groups of pupils. Systems and strategies adopted to drive improvement forward are appropriate. Now that the deputy headteacher has joined the school there is increased leadership capacity to drive improvement initiatives more swiftly. The leadership team recognise that more work is required to engage the wider staff team and ensure school improvement actions are developed, reviewed and evaluated collaboratively and embedded consistently throughout the school.

Governors have capitalised fully on the expertise and experience that the Executive Chair, who is a national leader of governance, has brought and the training offered through the local authority. As a result, governors are developing their role in quality assuring the impact that the school is having on pupils' achievement and those new to their role have been very effectively supported. Governors are committed and are intent on making a difference to the school. There is a clear shared understanding of how to support and challenge school leaders and achieve the actions and priorities that governors have set for themselves in their improvement plan.

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 recommends that further action is taken to:

- refine the targets and success criteria in the school improvement plan so that these are sharply focused on outcomes for year groups and other pupil groups, and impact can be measured.

HMI and the school discussed and agreed that the school will attend an Ofsted seminar later this term.

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

External support

The local authority has provided generous support. This has helped to address the shortfall in senior leadership capacity the school has experienced to date.

I am copying this letter to the Executive Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for York and the Joseph Rowntree Trust as below.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Jane Lewis – Executive Chair of the Governing Body
- York local authority
- Joseph Rowntree Trust
- The lead inspector.