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10 May 2013

Mr P Birdsall
Headteacher
Kinsley Primary (J and I) School
Wakefield Road
Fitzwilliam
Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF9 5BP

Dear Mr Birdsall

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit to Kinsley Primary School

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. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During my visit I held meetings with you and the deputy headteacher, with three middle leaders, with three members of the governing body, and with a representative of the local authority. During my visit I evaluated the school's improvement plans, looked at documents relating to the work of the school and was taken on a tour of the school.

Context

Since the inspection there have been no changes in staff. However, the school has appointed two new governors and two new teachers are to start shortly due to changes in staffing in the summer term and increasing numbers of pupils at the school.

Main findings

Leaders, governors and the local authority all agree that the findings and issues identified at the February inspection are the right ones. Subject leaders have received training about their roles and have carried out monitoring activities to check the quality of marking and feedback pupils receive and the quality of pupils' work. This has enabled them, and senior leaders, to identify where further improvement is needed. They accept that the questions and focus of their monitoring could be even sharper to give more precise feedback and demonstrate greater impact on the progress pupils make.

Senior leaders have a clear and honest view of the strength and weaknesses in teaching. They have brought forward reviews of teachers' performance. This has increased the level of teachers' accountability for the progress their pupils make. Senior leaders have also identified training for teachers to improve further which has been organised in partnership with a local teaching school.

The school is working with consultants and partner schools to improve the teaching of English and mathematics and are undertaking monitoring activities. However, greater attention needs to be paid to ensuring pupils are given the right work in lessons to build on their previous understanding and accelerates their progress. Leader's tracking of pupils' progress shows where the school's efforts need to be redoubled to ensure pupils make up for lost ground, particularly in Year 5. As part of the school's strategy to address this, pupils will move up to their next class in July rather than in September.

Together with two new governors, who have joined the school with relevant expertise, governors have received training on understanding data and have attended meetings to see for themselves how leaders and teachers moderate pupils' work.

The school's development plan outlines what needs to be done to improve. However, leaders and governors accept that it could be usefully sharpened to ensure there are greater accountability and a clear shared understanding how improvements will be measured.

Leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspections. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- refine the school's action plans by sharpening links between actions and the intended outcomes with precise, measurable criteria and milestones.

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

External support

The local authority officer has worked with school leaders in checking the quality of pupils' work. Together with a package of assistance from the local authority for 'securing good', the local authority has brokered the support of a mathematics consultant and expertise in from a local school.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Guy

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority - (including where a school is an academy)
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese - for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.