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Ms Beth Miller
Headteacher
Belgrave St Peter's CofE Primary School
Thurcaston Road
Leicester
LE4 5PG

Dear Ms Miller

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Belgrave St Peter's CofE Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 23 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 you, the deputy headteacher, the special educational needs co-ordinator, the Chair of the Governing Body and one other governor, and the Director of the Diocesan Board of Education. A telephone conversation was held with the Head of Service at the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A tour of the school was undertaken with the headteacher. The findings of school and governor monitoring activities and the performance management of staff were discussed.

Context

There have been no significant contextual changes within the school since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

Not enough has been done to improve the school. The school's action plan is not focussed on the points for improvement raised at the last inspection. There are no clear timescales for action. Leaders are not clear of their responsibilities and how their roles are linked to school improvement. Staff are not sufficiently accountable for the quality of their teaching and specifically for the progress of all of their pupils. Checks made on the schools work by school leaders and governors are ineffective. Monitoring is not addressing the priority issues. Staff turnover has a profound impact on the progress and achievement of pupils in some classes. Whilst pupils are now writing at more length and work is being more thoroughly marked, this is not consistent across the school and in every subject. This is because there is no policy which sets out the school's expectations for good handwriting and presentation of work. Pupils are not applying their mathematical knowledge and skills sufficiently well in other subjects, and the challenge of work given to pupils has not been considered carefully enough. Consequently, some activities are too easy, and some are too hard. There has not been enough checking of lesson or topic planning to pick this up. Although behaviour was not considered to be an issue at the time of the last inspection, pupils' behaviour, particularly at lunchtimes is not managed well. The school's behaviour policy needs to ensure that all staff use consistent and mutually agreed procedures. The governing body is having too little impact because it does not fully understand how to organise its work and the rigour it must provide to school improvement.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- re-write the action plan with clear timescales and ensure staff and governors are clear about their role in implementing it
- make staff fully accountable for their teaching and leadership roles
- strengthen key stage and subject leadership by rigorously checking lesson and topic planning and the suitability of activities given to pupils
- review the school's behaviour management policy and introduce a school presentation policy
- undertake an external review of governance and provide further training for the governing body
- HMI will return to the school to meet with the full governing body.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and will provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school has not responded well enough to the external support provided. The local authority has agreed to the school's request for school improvement advice to be drawn from the Diocese. The impact of this collaboration is yet to be realised in securing the improvements necessary. The school must continue to access all of the support that the Diocese is planning to put in place.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Education Director for the Leicester Diocese and the Director of Children's Services for Leicester City.

Yours sincerely

Jane Melbourne
Her Majesty's Inspector