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17 May 2013

Bernadette Miele
Headteacher
Tany's Dell Community Primary School
Mowbray Road
Harlow
CM20 2LS

Dear Mrs Miele

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Tany's Dell Community Primary School, Harlow.

Following my visit to your school on 16 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.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with you, senior and middle leaders and two governors, including the Chair of the Governing Body. I spoke to your school improvement partner and a representative from the local authority. I evaluated the post-Ofsted action plan. We carried out visits to classes, including to the unit for hearing-impaired pupils.

Context

Since the inspection, one teacher has left. The refurbished building is now in use. An additional 30 children will attend this school in September.

Main findings

The school is making steady progress towards becoming a good school. The governors and your senior team drive improvement through regular reviews of the post-Ofsted action plan. The improved attendance of pupils is a significant achievement. In Year 4, attitudes to learning are also improving. Teachers have worked hard to make the learning environment very pleasant in the new building. The emphasis on developing literacy skills from an early age is visible through attractive displays. The provision for hearing-impaired pupils is better managed

because pupils are now receiving intensive support each morning with opportunities to re-join their class in the afternoon.

The improvement plan is focused on accelerating pupils' progress and improving the quality of teaching. You have set clear targets, however time-lines to make all teaching consistently good are not sufficiently tight. The proportions for outstanding teaching and for pupils exceeding expected progress must be specified. With the support of the school improvement partner, you are tracking the school's progress closely. You must ensure that, following your monitoring activities, teachers act quickly on the areas you identify for improvement, particularly to challenge the more-able pupils. Staff, including learning support assistants, have many opportunities to train and develop their skills.

The governing body is involved in implementing the post-Ofsted plan and governors visit the school regularly. They are developing their knowledge to check the accuracy of the information you provide on the school's effectiveness.

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, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- refine targets for the proportions of outstanding teaching and pupils making more than expected progress
- increase the urgency with which teachers act upon your recommendations following monitoring activities
- make full use of existing opportunities to develop your practice, including visits to outstanding schools, the local 'Getting to Good' programme and published research, such as '*Communication is the key*' - an Ofsted good practice survey of services for deaf children.

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

External support

The school improvement partner supports your work to improve the quality of teaching. The local authority provides additional challenge to help you to move the school to good. You belong to local headteachers' networks and links with other schools enable teachers to share good practice.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianick Ellender-Gelé
Her Majesty's Inspector