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5 June 2013

Mr R Adams
Headteacher
Pennoweth Primary School
Drump Road
Redruth
Cornwall
TR15 1NA

Dear Mr Adams

Requires improvement monitoring visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Pennoweth Primary School

Following my visit to your school on Tuesday 4 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report my findings. 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement in November 2012.

Main findings

- In conjunction with senior leaders and governors, you are maintaining the determined, realistic yet ambitious approach to tackling the areas in need of improvement. The vision, commitment and rigour of senior leaders are clear and sustained.
- Leadership is developing well at different levels in the school. Senior staff make accurate judgements of the quality of teaching and learning, clearly identifying strengths and areas for improvement. Improving the effectiveness of the governing body is now built into the school's development plan. Governors are asking challenging questions of school leaders, for example about the use and impact of pupil premium funding (additional government money) and how the school manages the performance of its staff.
- The systematic and frequent gathering of data on pupils' progress continues. You are rightly cautious about the accuracy of assessments made at the end

of the summer term in 2012 and well aware that this makes measuring the progress made by pupils since then more difficult. Much has been done to make sure that assessments made by teachers during 2012/13 are accurate.

- Data show that attainment in Year 6 in English and mathematics in 2013 is set to be below the national average but that the progress pupils make across the school is continuing to pick up. Additional support, such as the 'Achievement for All' programme, is beginning to narrow gaps in achievement, for example girls are starting to close the gap on boys in mathematics.
- Short visits to classrooms by senior staff, scrutiny of pupils' work and planned discussions with pupils, for example with girls about their learning in mathematics, complement more formal lesson observations well. Teachers appreciate your willingness to get involved with lessons you visit, sometimes teaching part of the lesson to show a different approach.
- You use information gathered to plan effective action to improve the quality of teaching. A coaching approach, where senior staff plan and teach with others and discuss how to develop practice afterwards, is much appreciated by staff and clearly having a positive impact.
- Pupils interviewed reported that behaviour has improved and pupils behaved well in classrooms and around the school during the visit. Pupils value the time they are given to respond to their teachers' marking. Messages from assemblies, about perseverance and not being 'a rock' that holds back learning, have clearly had a positive impact.

The school continues to draw effectively on support from the local authority. This includes a further detailed review by a team of advisers that is to be undertaken shortly.

These findings are based on the evidence gathered as follows. I met with you, the deputy and the SENCo, other senior staff including two assistant headteachers, teachers involved in the support programme and seven governors, including the Chair. I had a telephone conversation with a senior school improvement officer from the local authority and met a group of pupils drawn from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. I also scrutinised a sample of girls' mathematics books with a group of senior staff as well as other materials made available, including data on pupils' progress. Visits were made jointly with senior staff to English and mathematics lessons in two classes of Years 3 and 4 pupils, one class of Years 1 and 2 and a Year 2 class.

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

Yours sincerely

Grahame Sherfield
Her Majesty's Inspector