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Debbie Thompson
Headteacher
Pirton Hill Primary School
Butely Road
Luton
LU4 9EX

Dear Mrs Thompson

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Pirton Hill Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 17 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 on 23 April 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other key leaders, the family and community support manager, governors, and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the action taken since the previous inspection. I evaluated the school's action plans and looked at the school's latest data on pupil progress, attainment and attendance. You took me on a brief guided tour of the school.

Context

One new part-time teacher has joined the school since the previous inspection. A new deputy headteacher has been appointed who takes up post in September 2013 when the current deputy moves on to another school.

Main findings

Your determination to move the school to good by improving teaching and raising achievement comes across strongly. Underperformance is tackled resolutely. The

action plan is a suitable tool to move the school to good. Timescales are tight with the workload evenly spread, and milestones set at intervals to check for improvement. Actions are not always linked closely enough to expected improvements in learning. You are usefully tapping into advice and expertise from the local authority, the West Neighbourhood Partnership, and other external consultants. Systems for tracking pupils' progress enable staff to quickly spot potential high flyers as well as those who are stuck: provision is adjusted accordingly. Attendance is rising. You have carefully planned succession arrangements for new leaders. Staff have improved their marking. They are developing their questioning to shift pupils' thinking and verbal responses to higher levels.

Governors know how to interpret achievement data. They are keen to gather first-hand information from school visits to help them form an independent view of the school's work. Pupil premium funding is spent suitably on the pupils it is intended for to raise their achievement. The governing body would benefit from having an action plan to support it in moving governance to good.

Senior leaders and governors are taking 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:

- develop stronger links between provision and outcomes in the action plan
- make use of Ofsted's reports and publications as examples of the best practice and sign up for seminars
- ensure that more displays of pupils' work in classrooms and corridors reflect the school's priorities
- devise an action plan to move the governing body's effectiveness to good.

External support

The local authority provides regular support especially to help the school improve its effectiveness in checking pupils' achievement and writing action plans. It contributed to the recruitment process for the appointment of the new deputy. Governors have received a range of training. As the school improves, it is rightly reducing the level of support it offers.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Linda Killman

Her Majesty's Inspector