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20 June 2013

Mr Carl Braithwaite
Ollerton Community Primary School
Whinney Lane
New Ollerton
Newark
NG22 9TH

Dear Mr Braithwaite

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Ollerton Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 19 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 in March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement and action plans were evaluated. I held discussions with pupils, during a tour of the school.

Main findings

You have made good use of external support and opportunities for professional development. These have led to important improvements in the leadership and management of the school. Initial actions have been taken to improve the quality of leadership at other levels, although the full benefit of the changes made will not be apparent until the start of the next academic year.

You have focussed clearly on improving the achievement of the pupils. There is now a clear system for monitoring the work of the school and how it is affecting the

pupils' achievement. It is leading to better information about the quality of teaching and this is being relayed to the staff, so that they can make improvements. Direct support is being provided to individual teachers and this is also resulting in improvements. The quality of teaching is still too variable, however.

Work to help Year 6 pupils to prepare for the national tests has increased their confidence and encouraged them to aim for higher levels. That indicates that expectations of what the pupils can achieve are beginning to rise.

The governing body demonstrates a genuine ambition for the school to be judged good at its next inspection. There have been improvements in the governing body's work to monitor the progress of the school since the inspection, but it does not yet have a strong enough role in deciding whether the school is doing well enough.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- bring forward the plans to increase the governors' role in monitoring the progress of the school
- speed up the improvements in teaching and eliminate the remaining variations, for example, in marking
- reduce the level of persistent absence.

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

External support

The school is making use of a broad range of support provided through a range of sources, including the local authority and a teaching alliance. The support is focussed on the relevant issues. It includes professional development for leaders and managers and teachers that is leading to improvements. The school needs further support to help it in tackling persistent absence.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss
Her Majesty's Inspector