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25 June 2013

Mr Chris Guest
Headteacher
Keyworth Primary and Nursery School
Nottingham Road
Keyworth
Nottingham
NG12 5FB

Dear Mr Guest

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Keyworth Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 24 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, a representative of the local authority and members of the governing body. I accompanied two pupils who led a tour of the school. You presented documentation about the monitoring of the quality of teaching and your most recent information about pupils' progress and attainment. I evaluated your school action plans.

Context

The staffing instabilities identified at the previous inspection have been resolved.

Main findings

Since the inspection, you have taken suitable action to address the areas identified for improvement.

You acted swiftly to organise training for staff to develop their skills in teaching pupils about letters and the sounds they make (phonics). This has been effective. Pupils are developing their skills more securely and this is helping them to make more rapid progress in reading.

Adults who work in the Early Years Foundation Stage have benefitted from working with colleagues in other settings. As a result, they have made improvements to how children's learning is assessed and recorded and are providing more opportunities for children to learn independently. You have delivered workshops which have strengthened the school's partnership with parents and carers of younger pupils. This has helped them to support their children's learning.

You have introduced a new approach to marking. This has ensured that there is a more consistent approach across the school. The marking code you have introduced is helping pupils to understand more clearly how they can improve their work.

Staff have received training on strategies to engage all pupils in their learning as well as ensuring that the behaviour code is implemented across the school day. This has been effective in raising expectations of behaviour. Your monitoring of behaviour shows a reduction in the number of minor incidents as well as good levels of engagement during lessons. Pupils confirm that behaviour has improved recently.

You have improved the effectiveness of the leaders of English and mathematics. They are now supported by colleagues to check the quality of teaching. Leaders are refining their skills in drawing together the wide range of information which they collect, in order to make more precise judgements about the quality of teaching and in determining the next steps for improvement. Your action plan makes it clear who is responsible for leading initiatives. However, because the measures for success are not specifically related to the achievement of pupils, it is difficult for you to gauge the extent to which their actions have been successful.

Governors have increased their involvement in monitoring the school and they make frequent visits to gather information about pupils' progress and the quality of teaching. Their reports, in addition to the information which you provide, enable the governing body to ask more challenging questions of the school's leaders about the rate of improvements made.

PROTECT-INSPECTION



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:

- ensure that leaders at all levels refine their skills in drawing together evidence from teachers' planning, observations of teaching, scrutiny of pupils' work and information from assessments, in order to make more precise judgements about the quality of teaching
- identify milestones in the school's improvement plan, linked to measurable success criteria, of the progress of cohorts and groups of pupils, so that governors and leaders can check more readily the impact of their actions on pupils' achievement.

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 local authority continues to monitor the progress of the school and has helped broker additional support. For example, an advanced skills teacher has worked successfully with adults in the Early Years Foundation Stage to improve provision in developing children's language skills.

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

Yours sincerely

David Carter
Her Majesty's Inspector