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Susan Elliott
Headteacher
Worle Village Primary School
Church Road
Worle
Weston-super-Mare
BS22 9EJ

Dear Mrs Elliott

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Worle Village 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 in April 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you, your deputy, three members of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority to discuss the actions being taken to improve the school. I scrutinised a range of documents and made a tour of the school with you and your deputy to observe lessons.

Context

Since the inspection in April, you have been appointed headteacher of the school. One teacher has resigned and another is on maternity leave. Two members of staff are in their first year of teaching.

Main findings

Your school action plan focuses on the areas for improvement identified in the recent section 5 inspection. Since the inspection, a common format for planning lessons has helped to improve teaching and pupils' progress. There is a better focus on the needs of different ability groups in literacy and numeracy lessons.

Interventions for pupils who need extra help in English and mathematics are better organised. In particular they reflect a quicker response to the information you are getting from teachers about pupils' progress in lessons. Following observations of teaching, you give teachers helpful feedback about how they can improve their work. You are holding teachers to account more precisely for the progress of pupils in their classes.

You told me that teachers are starting to change the way they mark pupils' work, so that comments give pupils more advice about how to improve. I saw evidence of this when I looked at teachers' marking. However marking would be better if comments show what an individual pupil should be doing to improve. We agreed from our joint observations of teaching that learning could be improved if teachers used a range of questions to probe the thinking of more able pupils. As part of the local authority support package, more training is being provided to teachers on just how to do this in mathematics lessons.

Governors have begun to change the way they monitor and evaluate the school's work following a self-review process. For example, they now run their review meetings in conjunction with your data collection meetings. As a result they have more up-to-date information. At present governors are trying to look at too many actions and are uncertain how they should gain an independent view about the quality of teaching and learning. It is timely, therefore, that the local authority governor services can help them clarify their roles.

Overall, senior leaders and governors have begun to take action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- set up coaching activities to help teachers improve their teaching with particular attention on how to use discussions to assess pupils' learning and encourage more able pupils to think deeply
- provide numeracy training for staff to improve their subject knowledge
- strengthen governance by ensuring that they are clear about their roles for checking up and challenging the school leaders.

External support

You appreciate the opportunity to work with representatives from the local authority in reviewing achievement data. It would be helpful if these reviews could include a focus on the key issues from the last inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Palk
Her Majesty's Inspector