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1 July 2013

Christabelle Whiteley-Tye
Headteacher
Hopton Church of England Primary School
Hopton-on-Sea
Great Yarmouth
NR31 9BT

Dear Mrs Whiteley-Tye

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Hopton Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 28 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 13 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and your deputy, three members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. A brief visit to all classrooms gave me the opportunity to observe pupils' learning.

Context

Since the inspection, one teacher has left the school and another will leave at the end of this term. Three new teachers will join the school in September 2013. The deputy headteacher will not teach a class next year. She will take responsibility for improving the quality of teaching and learning and for raising achievement throughout Key Stage 2. She will also continue to lead literacy. You will take responsibility for improving teaching and learning and raising achievement in Key Stage 1.

Main findings

You have shared your vision for improving the school with staff and governors and put in place detailed action plans to help you achieve this. There is a common understanding amongst senior leaders, teachers and governors that the overall performance of pupils and of staff needs to be raised to enable the school to become good.

You have focused your actions on improving the quality of teaching by deploying staff so their strengths are matched to the needs of each year group. It is unclear in your action plan how you will enable teachers to see each other in action more often to share good practice. An experienced teacher has been given responsibility for improving numeracy. Greater emphasis has been placed on regularly reviewing individual pupils' progress and holding staff to account by scrutinising the targets set for the management of their performance. These arrangements, and the new staff joining the school next term, provide further capacity to improve.

Governors have half-termly headteacher's reports and progress data in a simpler form to enable them to ask challenging questions and monitor the school's work. Assigning each governor to a particular year group will enable them to monitor the accuracy of the data provided for them.

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:

- make explicit in your action plan how you will enable teachers to see each other in action more often
- make full use of your improvement partner to validate your own views of the improvements made to teaching.

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

Your improvement partner is playing a key role in checking the impact the school's work. However, he has not been deployed to validate your own views of the quality of teaching.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector