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Nadine Lacey
Headteacher
Sutton-Cum-Lound CofE School
Portland Place
Sutton-Cum-Lound
Retford
DN22 8PP

Dear Miss Lacey

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Sutton-Cum-Lound CofE School

Following my visit to your school on 5 July 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, I held meetings with you, members of the governing body and a representative from the local authority. I considered your monitoring of teaching and learning, and your most recent data on the attainment and progress of pupils. I evaluated your school improvement plan as well as additional plans developed by leaders of English and mathematics. We conducted a tour of the school. I looked at samples of pupils' work and considered the quality of marking. I scrutinised the minutes of meetings of the governing body.

Context

The governing body has appointed a newly qualified teacher who will teach the mixed-age Reception and Key Stage 1 class from September 2013.

Main findings

Since the inspection, you have taken swift action to tackle the areas identified for improvement.

You have strengthened leadership by developing the skills of the leaders of English and mathematics. Leaders are now drawing together evidence from visits to lessons, scrutiny of pupils' work and information from assessments in order to make precise recommendations of how teaching can be improved.

You are checking carefully that teachers are responding appropriately to the guidance they receive from leaders. Pupils now understand what is expected of them in every lesson and are developing their skills in judging whether they have been successful in meeting their learning objectives. Pupils are responding to marking and are aware of what they have to do next to improve. Teachers are using their assessment of pupils' learning more precisely to ensure that the work is pitched at the right level. As a result of the guidance and feedback from senior leaders, the quality of teaching across the school is improving.

You are checking the impact of teaching by tracking the achievements of pupils. This reveals that pupils in the current Year 4 and Year 5 cohort are not making as much progress in mathematics as they do in English.

Governors make frequent visits to gather independent evidence about the quality of teaching and pupils' achievements. This is enabling them to ask more challenging questions of the school's leaders about the impact of the actions in the school development plan.

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:

- accelerate the progress of pupils in the current Year 4 and Year 5 cohorts in mathematics

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 adviser is monitoring closely the progress of the school and provides good levels of challenge and support. She has brokered additional support. Senior leaders have benefitted from visiting other schools. This has helped them to hone their skills in making judgements about the quality of teaching.

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