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17 September 2013

Mr A Yates  
Headteacher  
The Tynings School  
Eastleigh Close  
Staple Hill  
Bristol  
BS16 4SG

Dear Mr Yates

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to The Tynings School**

Following my visit to your school on 17 September 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 June 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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:

- strengthen the school's improvement plan by naming individuals to lead and evaluate each action and recording precise dates for the implementation and completion of each priority. In addition, clarify when the monitoring activities will take place and how progress will be reported to those individuals charged with evaluating improvement
- align the headteacher's reports and the agenda for each governing body meeting more closely to the school improvement priorities
- improve communications so that there are clear lines of accountability with all staff understanding their roles and responsibilities.

- ensure that all members of the school's leadership team are supported and enabled to contribute fully to the improvement priorities
- update the school's website so that it provides users with clear and current information about the school and its work, including accurate information about the deployment and impact of the pupil premium funding
- develop an action plan to show how the additional funding for physical education and sport will be allocated and its impact on increasing pupils' engagement with sport evaluated
- review and strengthen the contribution made by the teaching assistants to support and improve pupils' progress and attainment.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other school leaders, teaching and support staff, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated and an analysis of current pupil tracking data was discussed.

## **Context**

Since the June inspection, a number of changes to teaching staff have taken place, including the appointment of a new leader for the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition, the governing body has been reconstituted, which led to the decision to reduce the number of school governors.

During the summer holiday, the school was closed for major building work to renew the electrics and plumbing. The school reopened this term with ten classes, which is an increase of one on the previous year, brought about as a result of the increasing numbers of pupils attending.

## **Main findings**

- The headteacher, staff and governing body are fully aware of the challenges the school faces to become at least good. The school improvement plan has been written with challenging targets and milestones that show a clear determination to strengthen the quality of education provided.
- Morale within the school is strong and relationships are good. As a result, there is an urgency and desire to bring about the improvement needed for the school to be judged good.
- The senior leaders are focused on using their data analysis to identify those groups of pupils that need further support. The school has introduced regular

and systematic opportunities to evaluate pupils' progress and thereby monitor more closely how well pupils are performing.

- The Chair of the Governing Body is clear about how the governing body can contribute to the school's improvement journey. Appropriate action has been taken to monitor the school's performance by delegating the responsibilities to the various committees.
- The school's headteacher is leading the school well and managing its growth as it sees an increasing number of pupils on roll.
- The school's leadership team is making good progress to develop the skills needed to play a key role implementing the improvement plan. The English and mathematics subject leaders are increasing their involvement in strengthening the quality of teaching in their respective curriculum areas. The appointment of an Early Years Foundation Stage leader has also strengthened the leadership team.
- There is a strong and appropriate focus on monitoring the quality of teaching across the school. Observations of teaching are conducted by the school's senior leaders with evaluations based increasingly on the assessment of individual pupil's progress and the overall progress made by specific groups of pupils.
- The increased expectation on the quality of teaching has resulted in the school setting challenging targets for the proportion of pupils achieving and exceeding the expected levels of progress.

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 has received good quality support from the local authority. This includes taking action to commission a consultant headteacher to work with and support the headteacher and appointing a new school improvement partner who possesses a wealth of relevant expertise and skill to challenge the school further. The headteacher and the Chair of the Governing Body value the support being received and recognise that it is helping to galvanise the improvement programme.

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

Yours sincerely

Ken Buxton  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**