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17 October 2013

Mrs Jo Spriggs
Headteacher
Brocklesby Park Primary School
Great Limber, Grimsby, DN37 8JS

Dear Mrs Spriggs

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Brocklesby Park Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 16 October 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 not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- set out more ambitious attainment targets for pupils
- evaluate the quality of teaching accurately by linking this directly to the impact that teaching is having on pupils' progress and performance
- make sure that teachers and support staff regularly check that pupils are clear about their learning, as well as providing pupils with the next steps in their learning
- set out more specific priorities in the school improvement plan that focus on improving the accuracy of pupils' writing, particularly spelling, as well as improving their achievement in mathematics.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and the local authority's Education Improvement Adviser to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. Her Majesty's Inspector also met with a

headteacher of a partner primary school from a local collaboration of schools. Improvement plans were evaluated along with reviews of progress and notes of visits from governors and representatives of the local authority. After visiting both classes at the start of the monitoring inspection, assessments of pupils' progress and some writing books were scrutinised.

Context

One teacher joined the school in September 2013 to replace a temporary class teacher in the Key Stage 1 class.

Main findings

Although the headteacher and governors have stepped up their monitoring, the school's improvement plan lacks focus and direction. This makes it difficult to measure progress or the impact of actions. Some of the headteacher's evaluations of teaching are not linked sufficiently to the impact that the teaching is having on pupils' learning and progress. These inaccurate assessments of the quality of teaching make it difficult for teachers to understand what constitutes good teaching. The governing body has received an external review of their work from an independent consultant. This has helped governors to focus more effectively on challenging the work of the headteacher and staff. Nevertheless, assessments of individual pupil progress show that learning targets are not challenging enough and some pupils are still underachieving, particularly in writing and mathematics. Teachers have improved the way they mark pupils' writing but are not always picking up or correcting basic errors, such as spelling.

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 provides robust evaluations of the school's progress, reflecting the concerns it has about pupils' achievement and teaching. The Education Improvement Adviser is, rightly, providing the school with a high level of support and challenge. The partnership arrangements, and sharing of good practice with other schools, have the potential to provide greater clarity for teachers about what constitutes good and outstanding achievement and teaching.

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

Yours sincerely

Charalambos Loizou
Her Majesty's Inspector