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17 October 2013

Miss Joanne Harrison
Headteacher
Stoneferry Primary School
Stoneferry Road
Hull
HU7 0BA

Dear Miss Harrison

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Stoneferry Primary School, Kingston upon Hull

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 on 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 action plan to include regular measurable targets in order to check progress as the school moves forward
- increase the levels of challenge, particularly at Key Stage 2, to make sure that pupils are making better than expected progress
- develop a systematic method for governors to gain an independent view of the progress being made by the school and are therefore able to challenge and question leaders
- ensure that middle leaders are accountable for the aspects for which they are responsible.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher and two members of the Governing Body including the Chair. I had a telephone discussion with the headteacher of another primary school, who is working with you on behalf of the local authority. I toured the school with you and also looked at the recent national and school test results. I evaluated the school's getting to good action plan.

Main findings

You have a clear understanding of what needs to be improved so that the school can become good. However, since the previous inspection, results in the Early Years Foundation Stage and for writing are weaker than subjects, for example mathematics, identified in June when the school was inspected. Adding these aspects, which you indicated need improving, to your action plan is necessary because you need to keep a clear focus so that all aspects improve. Currently, your action plan suggests that pupils in Key Stage 2 make expected progress; you must add more challenge so that more pupils make better than expected progress, as they did, for example in mathematics this year. Furthermore, the action plan needs to be strengthened so that the actions identified can be measured regularly by all leaders. Governors need to establish a mechanism so that they can ask searching questions based on their own evidence and understanding of how well the school is doing.

Early indications show that there is a difference between the progress made by some groups of pupils compared with others. For example, girls do better than boys at reading and pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals are generally not doing as well as others. You recognise there is a need to keep an eye on this situation and to make sure that all staff monitor and check the progress of all groups of pupils closely.

Teachers are visiting other schools to learn how they can improve their practice and you plan to share this information during peer coaching sessions, due to start very soon. Regular observation of the quality of teaching, book scrutiny and pupil discussions indicate that improvements in the overall quality of teaching are evident.

I may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

You value the regular support and challenge provided by the local authority during their regular visits. In addition, you have been proactively arranging external support for leadership and to check the quality of teaching.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young

Her Majesty's Inspector