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16 October 2013

Mr T Mehmet
Headteacher
Parkland Infant School
Brassey Avenue
Eastbourne
BN22 9QJ

Dear Mr Mehmet

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Parkland Infant School

Following my visit to your school on 15 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 July 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:

- raise expectations of what pupils should achieve over time.
- work with the local leader of education brokered by the local authority to sharpen short-term and long-term targets in the school development plan and improve the leadership and management of teaching and learning.
- access training and support for the governing body.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher, and the subject leaders for English and mathematics to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also met two members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. I also looked at recent records of the monitoring of teaching and learning.

Main findings

School leaders do not have a clear vision of how they will get to 'good' and targets in improvement plans lack ambition. The main school improvement plan does not have long-term targets for children's progress in Reception or Year 1. The plan also lacks attainment and progress targets for different groups of pupils such as those eligible for support from the pupil premium and those who are disabled or who have special educational needs. This means that governors are not able to hold school leaders to account or evaluate the school's progress effectively.

School leaders are not doing enough to ensure that there is consistently good teaching in the school. The headteacher has revised the way in which lesson observations and reviews of teachers' planning are recorded, but recent evidence from the monitoring of teaching shows that teachers still do not receive enough high-quality feedback about what they need to do to improve. The governing body does not have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the teaching staff because they only receive information on the outcomes of lesson observations.

The governing body has had support to carry out a review of its effectiveness and has drawn up an action plan. Urgent action is required to ensure that members of the governing body have the training and support they need to carry out their duties effectively.

Ofsted will carry out a further monitoring visit in January 2014 and will provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The headteacher does not have a good working relationship with the local authority. Advisers from the local authority report that the headteacher has not always been receptive to their support and the impact of training such as the 'Getting to Good' programme has clearly been limited.

Since the recent inspection, the headteacher has arranged for an independent consultant to work with the school and has set up a link with an outstanding infant school in a neighbouring local authority.

HMI judges that the school needs more intensive support and strongly recommends that the headteacher should work closely with the local leader of education provided by the local authority.

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

Yours sincerely

Melanie Knowles
Her Majesty's Inspector