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5 November 2013

Heather Sandy
Headteacher
Lacey Gardens Junior School
Lacey Gardens
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LN11 8DH

Dear Mrs Sandy

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Lacey Gardens Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 4 November 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection on 26 February 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 is now ready for its next section 5 inspection.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. Short visits were made to all classrooms, jointly with you, to observe teaching and look at pupils' work. A range of documents were considered relating to school improvement planning, evaluation of improvements, pupils' progress and the improvement of teaching.

Main findings

The school has maintained the rapid rate of improvement observed in the first visit. Lesson observations, pupils' work and school records combine to show that the large majority of pupils in every year group are achieving well. They make progress at a better than expected rate from their starting point in Year 3, which you have accurately assessed. This applies equally to groups of pupils such as the more able,

those supported by pupil-premium funding and those who are disabled or who have special educational needs. No significant group of pupils is making less than expected progress. This strong picture is not reflected in the 2013 unvalidated national data for pupils' achievement in English and mathematics. This is mainly because the data are for the Year 6 pupils who left the school in July 2013 and who only benefitted from the improved teaching you introduced for 12 weeks before they took the national tests and assessments.

Pupils' achievement is improving rapidly because teaching is consistently good or better in every class. This is shown in the records kept from your systematic monitoring of teaching, which are supported by my short lesson observations. Pupils told me that they learn much more quickly now because lessons are interesting, they find out more from practical activity, work is suitably challenging and they receive very clear guidance from teachers' marking and the targets they are given. My evidence from lesson observations supports these views.

Good practice is consistently embedded in every class because of the support you receive from the recently established team of senior and middle leaders. They work very well together to keep the quality of teaching under constant review and to provide guidance and training to colleagues where it is necessary to help them to improve their methods. With you, they contribute significantly to the school's culture of everybody being eager to learn in order to do their best for the pupils. The governing body provides clear evidence, in their working documents, of their systematic approach to evaluating the school's improvement and to providing support or challenge where required.

External support

The local authority has a very clear and accurate understanding of the school's performance. Recognising its rapidly improving capacity to raise standards independently, they have rightly reduced the support to new leaders that they provided in the early days of their appointment.

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

Yours sincerely

John Rutherford
Her Majesty's Inspector