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4 December 2013

Alison Buddle
Headteacher
The Gedney Hill Church of England VC Primary School
North Road
Gedney Hill
Spalding
PE12 0NL

Dear Mrs Buddle

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to The Gedney Hill Church of England VC Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 2 December 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report my findings. 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.

This was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement in October 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:

- improve the school development plan by separating the planned actions from the key progress milestones, so that the method of evaluating the impact of actions is clear
- continue to develop and utilise the effective collaboration between this school, Shepeau Stow school and the wider group of schools to support staff and leadership development
- sustain the current drive to improve the quality of teaching across the school.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with you and the assistant headteacher and toured the school looking at learning in both classes. I also spoke with a group of students, the Governing Body and I telephoned a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school improvement plan, the school's analysis of pupils' progress, some records of quality assurance activities and the work of some pupils.

Context

Leadership responsibilities of teachers who work in the school were reorganised following the inspection.

Main findings

Most of the actions taken to improve the school were already in place at the time of the October inspection, but because they had only recently been put fully into place, they had not had enough time to show impact in the outcomes of pupils. That is still the case, although during my visit I was able to see evidence that the professional development programme put in place for one member of staff is showing in improved teaching.

There have been useful improvements in the classrooms, particularly Key Stage 2, where resources to help pupils understand their current levels of attainment and targets for progress are clearly displayed. Teachers and teaching assistants are also developing a wider range of support to help pupils to be able to work independently, such as the 'wisdom wallets'. Pupils said that they found teachers' comments on their work useful in improving. The consistency with which they act on the teachers' advice to make corrections or extend their work is also improving.

The governing body works effectively across the two schools and has a suitable range of skills to enable them to effectively monitor the school's progress and provide challenge and support to the headteacher. They and the senior leadership team are fully aware of the need for rapid improvement. The strategies being used are appropriate for this.

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 made good use of the additional support provided by CFBT on behalf of the local authority. The resources of the collaborative partnership of six local schools have also been an extremely useful source of support and professional development.

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

Yours sincerely

John Peckham
Her Majesty's Inspector