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Mrs Sarah Allison
Acting Headteacher
Lawn Primary School
Norbury Close
Allestree
DE22 2QR

Dear Mrs Allison

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Lawn Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 10 January 2014, 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 November 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.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the Chair of the Governing Body and one additional governor to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I met with a representative of the local authority. I looked at pupils' work. I spoke to pupils informally as I visited each class and observed a lesson jointly with you. The school action plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the most recent section 5 inspection, a new staffing structure has been implemented. Three teaching assistants have taken voluntary redundancy. One of the assistant headteachers is acting as deputy headteacher.

Main findings

You have wasted no time in bringing about the changes necessary to improve the school. However, senior leaders are not checking quickly enough if their planned actions have been effective. Consequently, governors are not receiving information about the school's progress in a timely fashion to hold senior leaders to account.

It is clear from my visit that you, your acting deputy headteacher and the governing body are determined to improve the outcomes for pupils. You have completed the restructuring of staff and established a secure base for future school improvement. You are improving the quality of teaching by identifying individual teacher's needs and supporting them to improve their work through using existing good practice within the school or by utilising the good practice in other local schools. These improvements are demonstrated in the progress pupils are making in mathematics and English.

Systems for holding teachers to account for their performance are robust. You are rightly judging the quality of teaching based on a wide range of evidence from the checks you make. You are addressing poor performance quickly so that pupils receive consistently better teaching. Teachers have a clearer picture of what you expect them to do and how they will be held to account for their work.

It is clear that the governors have responded quickly to the challenge of improving the way they check how well the school is doing. Their visits are better focused on the progress pupils make. Governors have clear roles of responsibility and they ask challenging questions of senior leaders about pupils' progress and improvements in the quality of teaching.

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 has acted quickly to support the school. It has provided support in the restructuring of staffing. It has also supported the acting headteacher to develop a system for checking the performance of teachers. It has brokered support from a local headteacher to develop leadership and management.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor
Her Majesty's Inspector