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10 January 2014

Mr Robert Shadbolt
The Headteacher
Wood Green School
Woodstock Road
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 1DX

Dear Mr Shadbolt

Special measures monitoring inspection of Wood Green School

Following my visit to your school on 9 January 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, I held meetings with you and your deputy, the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated. I also evaluated the report from the local authority following their review of governance.

Context

Following the review of governance, recommended by the last inspection team, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body resigned their positions. The governing body elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair on 8 January 2014. Two new senior leaders have been appointed on a temporary basis to increase leadership capacity at the school.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

You and your senior team have responded positively to the concerns raised in the last inspection. You are confident of securing rapid improvements in the school and becoming good by January 2015. To achieve this you are beginning to systematically tackle aspects of the work of the school that need to be better, and some progress is already evident. For example, a new assessment information and student tracking system is in place. This is giving teachers the information they need to be able to tackle the previous underachievement of some students.

You have reviewed the roles and responsibilities of senior leaders and ensured better accountability for aspects of the school's work that needs improvement. As a result, senior leaders feel more empowered to make improvements and are much clearer about their roles and their accountability. You have worked with senior and middle leaders to implement a standardised lesson planning format to ensure teaching is more consistent. Middle and senior leaders are monitoring more frequently as part of the school improvement plans. Monitoring information shows that teaching is more consistent but that there is still work to do to ensure that all teachers are using the information they have about students to plan their lessons effectively.

Sixth form achievement across a range of subjects has been variable. The school has purchased, with local authority support, an information package that gives valuable information on this variance. This is allowing curriculum leaders to understand how well their subjects are achieving compared with others in the school and against other departments across the country. This has led to the school improving their analysis of, and response to, underachievement.

The local authority is providing good support to the school's leaders and governors. Planning and delivery of the statement of action and associated school improvement plan have been collaborative. The re-formed governing body is working effectively to tackle the deficiencies identified by the local authority review of governance. Plans are in place to involve governors more fully in regular monitoring of the school's improvement priorities.

The statement of action and the closely associated school improvement plan tackle all of the areas of the school needing improvement. They have success criteria and milestones for success. However, senior leaders and governors know the monitoring cycle that is in place needs to be more precisely defined following key appointments to the governing body. A parents' meeting has been held. While parents are concerned, they demonstrated strong support for the school's work and a desire to be fully involved in helping the school improve. Parents are being regularly informed by newsletter about the school's progress and plans are in place to more systematically gather their opinions.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made.

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plans are fit for purpose.

The school may appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection after discussion with me about subject area and support package.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Oxfordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gale

Additional Inspector