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Mr Laurence Keel
Headteacher
The Kilburn Park School Foundation
Malvern Road
London
NW6 5RG

Dear Mr Keel

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to The Kilburn Park School Foundation

Following my visit to your school on 20 January, 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.

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. The school should take further action to:

- carry out an external review of governance to identify how the governing body can support and challenge school leaders to improve teaching and learning throughout the school
- improve the strategic capacity of all leaders by developing middle leadership roles further, so that standards across the school improve more quickly.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the deputy headteacher, two middle leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local

authority to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plans were evaluated and I joined you on a tour of the school.

Context

Since the inspection you have appointed a consultant ex-headteacher to teach alongside improving teachers, offer coaching support and lead an initiative to improve boys writing. You have also appointed a new special educational needs co-ordinator who will take up his post after the February half term.

Main findings

The school improvement plan has been reviewed and shows a good understanding of priorities, accurately identifying the actions that need to be taken. However, a clearer monitoring role for the governing body would ensure that they could check that improvements are having sufficient impact and happening quickly enough.

An external review of governance should be carried out as soon as possible. This will allow the roles and responsibilities of the governing body to be more closely aligned to improvements identified within the school plan. Governors recognise that their systems for working are not yet fully established because of recent changes in the composition of the governing body. However, members are committed to making a difference and are supporting school leaders to make improvements.

Pupil achievement and rates of progress improved last year. Careful tracking of individuals and groups allows you to target where additional support is still needed. This information is shared with all teachers, who report on the amount of progress pupils are making every half term. You are aware that inconsistencies across year groups and classes still remain. For example, you have identified that more able pupils in year 4 and 5 are still underachieving. You are addressing this with further interventions, and consider that this will allow them to make better progress by the end of the year.

Professional training opportunities have been carefully planned and link closely to the needs of teachers and the improvement plan for the school. Middle leaders, new to their roles, say they have benefitted from joining an outstanding teachers programme. They are also linking with an outstanding school to improve their leadership and management skills. You recognise that they require support while growing into their roles, but consider that they are already making a strong contribution to improving standards of teaching and learning across the school. Together with other leadership appointments made this term, they are allowing senior leaders more time to plan, support and monitor improvements.

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

You consider that the local authority is providing you with strong support to improve the school. This has included providing additional funding for you to appoint a consultant ex-headteacher and increase your leadership capacity. You are part of a rapid improvement group (RIG). This allows you to regularly review the school improvement plan with the local authority and evaluate the impact your actions are having. A leadership review is planned to take place before half term. The school is visited by a school improvement partner on a regular basis. Middle leaders are working with staff from an outstanding school to develop their skills further.

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

Yours sincerely

Lesley Cox
Her Majesty's Inspector