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28 February 2014

Mrs Janet Adamson
Headteacher
Griffin Primary School
Barham Road
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Dear Mrs Adamson

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Griffin Primary School, Kingston upon Hull

Following my visit to your school on 27 February 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the 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 at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- check frequently that the recently introduced systems and processes used by all staff are having the intended measurable impact and lead directly to improvements in the progress made by all pupils
- ensure that the action plans identify who is responsible for monitoring and who is responsible for evaluating each section
- ensure that all the targets within the action plans, especially those linked to the quality of teaching throughout the school, are appropriate and reflect the progress being made by all pupils
- explore carefully and clarify why there are specific differences between the progress and attainment of all groups of pupils in some subjects
- make sure that governors engage in planned training so that they expand their knowledge and understanding to hold leaders to account effectively.

Evidence

During the visit, I held meetings with you, your deputy, and phase and subject leaders. I met with a representative of the local authority and with the Chair and four members of the Governing Body. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and evaluate the actions that have been taken since the last inspection. We also looked at recent information which shows pupils' progress in reading, writing and mathematics. You and your deputy took me on a tour of the school so that I could observe pupils at work.

Context

Since the recent inspection a member of the teaching staff is absent; their class is being taught by a teacher already employed at the school. Three parent governors were appointed last week.

Main findings

Although you and your colleagues have responded positively to the inspection judgements, you need to ensure that everything that is put in place has the intended impact and can be measured. It is too early to judge whether the revised systems and processes will make a difference to the progress made by all pupils, but initial signs are encouraging. Middle and phase leaders are enthusiastic about their roles and welcome the opportunity to work together. They undertake monitoring work, but at present their findings and reports are too general. A detailed analysis to identify specific differences between all pupil groups and which parts of reading, writing and mathematics must be done so that precise support is given. For example, there was a marked difference between the performance of boys and girls in some literacy areas last year; leaders need to know if this is still the case.

The action plan records what needs to be done. It must be strengthened so that it is clear who is responsible for checking each section. At present the success criteria are too general and at times over-optimistic, for example the quality of mathematics teaching. Targets must be sharpened so that you can clearly evidence to external scrutiny if the quality of teaching and thus the outcomes for all pupils are improving.

Governors, to whom I spoke, understand the need to make rapid and appropriate changes. The training offered by the local authority is to be organised as soon as possible to compliment the external training undertaken by some governors to develop their knowledge of particular areas. Links have been made with the National Governors Association and a review of governance is in place. As a result, governors are in a better position to challenge and hold you and your colleagues to account and ask the correct questions.

I plan to monitor the progress being made carefully and a further visit will be made during the second half of the summer term 2014.

External support

Your school continues to work closely with schools in the East Hull Cooperative Learning Trust and links with other neighbouring schools are being developed. This enables staff to learn from others and to check via an external source if the marks they are awarding to pupils are secure. The local authority is helping you with advice and to identify the training needed as you move forward.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young
Her Majesty's Inspector