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20 March 2014

Miss Bronagh King
Headteacher
Chickenley Community Junior Infant and Nursery School
Princess Road
Chickenley
Dewsbury
West Yorkshire
WF12 8QT

Dear Miss King

Special measures monitoring inspection of Chickenley Community Junior Infant and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 19 March 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 November 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings and conversations were held with the headteacher, the school senior leadership teams, school governors, a representative of the local authority and the National Leader of Education working with school. As the school is part of a Trust, a representative was contacted. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement were evaluated.

Context

Since the last inspection one teacher has joined the teaching staff. The deputy headteacher is leaving the school at Easter. The local authority has provided an executive headteacher as additional leadership capacity to the school.

The school has appointed additional governors to build the capacity of the governing body.

The quality of leadership in and management of the school

School leaders and governors have not taken effective action to address the areas for improvement identified in the last inspection. This is because planned actions are not being implemented with the urgency required and monitoring is not sufficiently swift or robust enough to assess the impact of leaders' actions.

Senior leaders have drafted an action plan and shared this with governors and members of staff. Parents have access to the plan through the school web site. Two meetings have been held with parents to discuss the outcomes of the inspection and share the school's plan. The plan is not comprehensive enough as it does not capture all the activities being carried out or that are required to address the areas for improvement.

Actions to build the skills and knowledge of governors have not been implemented speedily enough. Although governors are well intentioned in their efforts to address the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection, they do not have the skills necessary to monitor and evaluate the amount of progress being made and ask appropriately challenging questions of school leaders.

Senior leaders and governors do not have sufficient evidence to evaluate the impact of actions taken so far. The evidence of the impact these actions are having in lessons needs to be gathered urgently. School leaders have not yet carried out a review of practice in the classrooms since the last inspection. Although school leaders have undertaken a range of other monitoring activities, the focus of these needs sharpening to ensure everyone in school is absolutely clear about the improvements required and what success will look like.

During the inspection, concerns were raised by some staff and the local authority about aspects of behaviour and safety in the school. This will be a focus of the next monitoring inspection.

The local authority has brokered a range of support including links with a successful local school with a proven track record of improvement and strong leadership, and has ensured additional leadership capacity through the addition of the executive headteacher. Governors and all senior leaders now need to ensure that, collectively, there is a relentless focus on delivering the required improvements.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose. The plan states clearly the actions proposed in the light of the inspection. It identifies appropriate resources to support the school.

The school's improvement plan is not fit for purpose. This is because it does not have a sufficient level of challenge to ensure that teachers have consistently high expectations of what pupils can achieve. There are no targets and milestones for higher-attaining pupils or those that could make better than expected progress. The school's plan does contain some appropriate actions but it requires more detail about how leaders will improve the quality of teaching and use performance management to tackle weaknesses in teaching.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Brown
Her Majesty's Inspector