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Gwyneth Evans
Stockingford Primary School
Cross Street
Nuneaton
CV10 8JH

Dear Mrs Evans

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Stockingford Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 1 April, 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 on 14-15 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:

- improve the quality of feedback pupils receive in mathematics and other subjects and ensure pupils respond to this,
- identify more clearly the key indicators that will be used by the governing body to regularly check on the progress being made by different groups of pupils and
- ensure middle leaders have more opportunities to implement the skills they are developing through the management training they have recently undertaken.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other leaders. A meeting was held with three governors, including your Chair of Governors and a representative of the

local authority. The school improvement plan, information related to the tracking of pupils' progress, your records of your monitoring of teaching and the minutes of the governing body meetings were evaluated. Short visits were made to 16 lessons to observe teaching.

Context

There have been no changes in staffing since the last Section 5 inspection. 18 additional pupils have joined the school.

Main findings

Throughout the school teaching is improving because lessons are more focussed on pupils' needs and abilities as a result of the improvements made to the use of assessment. Particularly in English, pupils are receiving better quality feedback on what they need to do to improve. This is being achieved through more effective marking that identifies next steps, and through well timed discussions in lessons often featuring examples of pupils' work that highlight well how pupils can excel. Displays are also contributing to this. The quality of feedback in other subjects was not quite as impressive. In addition, it is not always clear that pupils are responding to the written feedback they receive.

Good evidence was also seen of the curriculum being used to further enhance pupils' attitudes to learning; for instance, visits to Warwick Castle and Stratford have been used very well to inspire pupils to write. The 'Nuneaton' topic has been enhanced through the inclusion of mathematical activities that required pupils to compare their town to nearby Coventry. As result of the improvement you have made, particularly since the school was inspected in November 2013, you are anticipating a sharp rise in the results in Year 6 so these will be in line with the national average.

Your monitoring of teaching is effective. It blends together well the information the school has about progress made by pupils and evidence taken from their books and the observations of teaching. You are using this evidence to challenge any under-performance and to identify the effective practice that can be shared more widely.

The school has established an effective leadership structure. All staff are held to account through leaders who take responsibility for each year group. These leaders also have a whole school responsibility associated with a subject. Since the inspection, these leaders have completed management training to improve their abilities to support staff effectively. These arrangements are allowing you to better share the responsibilities for improving your school so you are not solely reliant on your two deputies. There is good evidence that you are regularly checking the progress the school is making in addressing all the issues identified at the section 5 inspection. This checking includes the effective use of relevant assessment information by leaders in school. Less clear is the key information that is to be used

by the whole Governing Body to regularly check on the progress different groups of pupils are making. However, steps are being taken by your governors to improve their effectiveness; for instance the role of link governors has been enhanced so that they are able to report back more effectively to the whole governing body.

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 are working with the other local schools to accelerate the rate of improvement. This includes joint meetings to check that teachers in your school are assessing pupils' attainment accurately. The management training for leaders is also a product of your collaboration with other schools. The local authority knows the school well and has established regular opportunities to review the progress the school is making. It would be helpful if further support could focus on improving mathematics.

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

Yours sincerely

Kevin Sheldrick
Her Majesty's Inspector