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Mr Geoff Hadlow
Headteacher
Shaftesbury Primary School
Shaftesbury Road
London
E7 8PF

Dear Mr Hadlow

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Shaftesbury Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 1 May 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 October 2014. 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 how leaders and governors monitor all action plans to check that improvements are effective and happening quickly enough
- ensure governors use the knowledge and skills acquired in their training to ask challenging questions that lead to further improvements.

Evidence

During the visit meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body together with the governor responsible for safeguarding and

with representatives of the local authority and teaching school alliance to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. I also meet with a group of staff to discuss recent improvements. I evaluated your action plans along with other school documents and reviewed the school's safeguarding arrangements. We made a brief visit to every class and the outdoor play areas during a tour of the school.

Context

Since the inspection a deputy headteacher has left the school. A new designated officer and deputy designated officer for child protection have been appointed and took up their responsibilities in January. A family support officer has been employed and started work at the school in April. Five additional teaching assistants have been recruited to support the teaching and learning of pupils across the school.

Main findings

You have made a number of changes to safeguarding arrangements since the inspection, following a thorough and comprehensive review of your existing practices. You have updated your safeguarding policy and are making sure it is implemented effectively. This includes providing designated officers with time to keep accurate records and liaise with external agencies. By working more closely with families any concerns are addressed and further support identified quickly. You have improved how you record, track and monitor the support provided for pupils, including those who are potentially at risk, to make sure they are safe. Further training has been provided to all staff to ensure that they can recognise when pupils may need additional support and know how to report any concerns. Pupils are attending school more regularly as a result of closer monitoring and the actions you take when attendance rates are too low. You have made sure that everyone knows what to do in an emergency. For example, all teachers know how to alert other adults if they need assistance in their classrooms. A high level of supervision and additional training for playground staff ensures pupils use the attractive outdoor facilities and play equipment safely. When minor accidents do happen they are recorded meticulously. Your systems for recruiting and training staff are closely monitored and meet statutory requirements.

You are effectively tracking the progress individuals and groups make in reading, writing and mathematics. Your records show that teaching standards have been maintained and most pupils continue to make good progress. By appointing additional staff and teaching pupils in small groups for some activities you are ensuring that all pupils, including the most able, are challenged at the appropriate level.

Your action plans correctly identify the improvements that need to be made and who will carry them out. However, monitoring roles for leaders and governors are not

planned carefully enough. There are currently lots of separate action plans but not one that provides an overview of all the improvements being made. As a result, outcomes and time scales are confused and it is difficult to judge if improvements have been effective or are happening quickly enough.

Governors have undertaken an external review of governance and have improved how they monitor safeguarding. They make regular monitoring visits to check that safeguarding systems are effective and formally record their observations, identifying further improvements where necessary. Governors have benefitted from recent training that has improved their understanding of achievement information and now need to ask more challenging questions to school leaders so that standards across the school continue to rise.

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 benefitting from support provided by the Tollgate Teaching Alliance to deliver further training to teachers. This has led to more teaching being judged as good or outstanding. Several middle and senior leaders are enrolled on courses leading to qualifications awarded by the National College of Teaching and Leadership. You have been supported by the local authority to review teaching within the early years and foundation stage classes. They will undertake a review of teaching and learning across the school and audit your support for pupils with a disability or special educational need later this term. The local authority also helped to review your safeguarding systems and identified where further improvements needed to be made. Representatives from a local federation of schools have provided your staff and designated officers with child protection training.

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

Yours sincerely

Lesley Cox

Her Majesty's Inspector