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Simon Hall
Executive Headteacher
Shaugh Prior Primary School
Shaugh Prior
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Devon
PL7 5HA

Dear Mr Hall

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Shaugh Prior Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 12 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 January 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:

- ensure that teaching is evaluated objectively so that weaknesses can be identified and targeted for improvement
- ensure that senior leaders and the governing body monitor the proportion of pupils making expected progress and more than expected progress, so that they can track improvements in teaching.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the head of teaching and learning, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. You also showed me around the school and I observed the behaviour of pupils during the lunch break. I took this opportunity to talk to some pupils. I also considered a range of school documentation, including records of governor meetings and reports from the local authority.

Main findings

School leaders have moved swiftly since the inspection to drive forward the school's improvement agenda. New approaches to the management of pupils' behaviour have already had positive results. Staff, pupils and governors all report that the school has a more positive attitude and that good behaviour is now recognised and rewarded. The good quality support provided by a teacher from another school in the federation has led to improvements in the teaching of mathematics. This initiative is impacting positively on increasing the rate of pupils' learning.

Since the inspection, the governors have increased the rate of improvement they expect in the school. They have established a committee to closely monitor the improvements being made to teaching and learning in the school. They have also carried out a range of activities to gauge the effectiveness of the improvements made to behaviour management. As a result, they have a good understanding of the effectiveness of the work of senior leaders and the positive impact of these actions on pupils. They do not yet have the information they need to monitor improvements in the quality of teaching.

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

The local authority provides the school with a good balance of support and challenge. They hold regular meetings to monitor progress and are currently supporting the development of behaviour management. This has contributed to improvements in the behaviour of pupils in the school. The executive headteacher is also beginning to make effective use of strengths within the federation to secure improvements in pupil progress and attainment in mathematics.

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

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector