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5 June 2014

Mrs Elaine Butler
Executive Headteacher
Thanet Primary School
Tedworth Road
Bilton Grange Estate
Hull
HU9 4AY

Dear Mrs Butler

Special measures monitoring inspection of Thanet Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 4 June 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 February 2014.

Evidence

During this inspection, I held meetings with you, the head of school, five members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. You and the head of school took me on a tour to observe pupils at work. I evaluated the local authority's statement of action, your post Ofsted action plan and other documents relating to the quality of teaching and pupils' progress and attainment.

Context

One member of staff left at the end of the spring term. This class is being taught by a temporary teacher. A permanent appointment to this role has been made. Another teacher has indicated that they intend to leave at the end of the summer term. Two new members of the governing body have taken up their role. Thanet Primary is part of a group of local schools within the Pioneer Cooperative Trust.

The quality of leadership in and management of the school

Since the section 5 inspection there have been some changes to the way information is gathered about how well pupils are doing throughout the school. You suggest that additional help for pupils in Year 6 will ensure that more of them will make progress this year than formerly. In addition, you are looking closely at those pupils who are underachieving throughout the school and providing extra help for them. Checking that this help is making a difference is a regular part of leaders' work. Some lesson observations take place, plus scrutiny of pupils' books, but you have not brought information from this work together to tell you how much teaching is improving. This information needs to be linked closely to the progress made by pupils. Furthermore, you have not evaluated all this work to see if any common themes are addressed during training events. A more joined-up approach to these activities is needed.

The post Ofsted action plan is a comprehensive document and refers to the key areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection. It does not meet requirements because although milestones are indicated for each term most of these are not measurable and some do not link with the actions planned. For example, there is no target for the expected quality of good or better teaching this term so it is not possible for external reviewers to see if this target has been met.

Working in conjunction with the other schools staff are able to moderate pupils' work. External providers are beginning to work with your staff but it is early days and the impact of this work is not apparent.

Governors want to do their best for the school, but their understanding of how to interpret data and challenge information presented to them in order to be effective is weak. For example, their understanding of whether the pupil premium funding is being spent appropriately and if it is making a difference is not known. As reported in the section 5 report, they rely too heavily on you. A one-day governance review led by an external provider was completed last month and this identified a number of procedural activities that need to be undertaken. The present system of a singular governing body to deal with both schools in the federation means that there is limited time for governors to discuss and check information presented to them specifically for Thanet School. Consequently, their ability to drive the school forward, ensuring that all pupils make the progress of which they are capable, is limited.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's post Ofsted action plan is not fit for purpose.

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 of Children's Services for Kingston upon Hull. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young

Her Majesty's Inspector