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Mr Richard Cripps
Headteacher
Mapperley CofE Controlled Primary School
Mapperley Village
Ilkeston
DE7 6BT

Dear Mr Cripps

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Mapperley CofE Controlled Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 17 June 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. 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 March 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.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you, one subject leader, three representatives of the governing body, a group of pupils and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. I evaluated your plans for improvement. I considered documentation relating to the monitoring of teaching and reviewed your most recent data on pupils' progress and attainment. We conducted a tour of the school together and visited all classes to see pupils and staff at work. I considered the quality of teachers' marking.

Context

Since the recent inspection, one member of staff has been on sick leave. Two new governors have been appointed.

Main findings

Your improvement plans focus sharply on improving pupils' achievements in mathematics and writing. The challenging targets you have set are giving a clear message to staff of the increased expectations for all pupils to make at least good progress. You have introduced new systems for checking teaching and increased the frequency of checks. You are regularly scrutinising teachers' planning, looking at work in pupils' books, visiting lessons and considering information relating to pupils' achievements. This is helping you to provide teachers with more detailed feedback on how to improve their practice.

The introduction of 'Big Write' is providing pupils with more opportunities to write at length in a broader range of subjects. A revised marking policy has been introduced. Year 6 pupils explained clearly the marking codes and shared examples of how marking is helping them to improve their work. However, this good practice is not consistent across the school.

You are involving subject leaders more in checking on the quality of teaching in their subject areas. They are also involved in carrying out subject audits which are providing them with helpful information in meeting the professional development needs of individual staff.

Governors have wasted no time in organising an external review and are aware of the need to improve some aspects of governance. New governors are receiving induction training. All governors are keen to update their skills and knowledge in order to hold you to account more confidently.

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 school appreciates the good support provided by the local authority, particularly the challenge and guidance of the link adviser.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Derbyshire and the Director of Education for Derbyshire Diocese.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate
Her Majesty's Inspector