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30 June 2014

Mr Martin Kennard
Headteacher
Greythorn Primary School
Greythorn Drive
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7GH

Dear Mr Kennard

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Greythorn Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 27 June 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 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 inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and another governor, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. During the visit, you joined me on a tour of the school where I spoke with pupils informally and looked at their work. A sample of pupils' books were also scrutinised and I scrutinised additional school information. The single central record was checked.

Context

There have been no contextual changes since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

You have responded to the outcome of the latest inspection with a determination to improve the school rapidly. Both yourself, and other senior leaders demonstrate a commitment to bring about school improvement quickly. You have amended your improvement plan and sharpened the focus of actions in order to address the key areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. As a result, the plan has well-defined, measureable actions to improve teaching. A more robust system for checking the quality of your work closely ensures the governing body is closely linked to evaluating the success of the actions you are taking.

You and other senior leaders are looking more carefully at pupils' work and checking its quality, including the quality of marking and presentation. As a result, you are identifying weaknesses in teaching rapidly and acting to address these through training and support for individual teachers.

Teachers' marking has improved. Where it is most effective, teachers tell pupils how well they are doing and expect them to think carefully about their answers to their teacher's comments. Pupils have more opportunities to respond to teachers' marking in order to correct their mistakes and, as a result, they are making better progress. However, this more effective marking is not consistent in all classes. Teachers are not always checking the use of spelling and punctuation carefully enough to ensure simple errors are not repeated.

The governing body is determined to improve the outcomes for pupils. It has taken swift action to ensure it is able to challenge school leaders in greater depth by adapting its systems for checking the quality of their work. Carefully planned visits, linked to the areas for improvement, ensure governors are able to find out for themselves the impact of your work. As a result, it has already checked the quality of marking in pupils' books, identified areas for improvement and challenged you and other school leaders to improve further.

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 has provided effective support to the school to write a focused school improvement plan. It has also identified a partnership with a local outstanding school to support the development of leadership and marking through training and advice. It has identified funding to support this partnership. The local authority has provided further support through checking the effectiveness of actions to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor

Her Majesty's Inspector