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17 September 2014

Mrs Lynne Trotter
Headteacher
Mountbatten Primary School
Wivern Road
Bilton Grange
East Yorkshire
HU9 4HR

Dear Mrs Trotter

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Mountbatten Primary School, Kingston upon Hull

Following my visit to your school on 16 September 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 May 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 all staff take responsibility for driving improvement in their class
- ensure that the skills and knowledge pupils learn in their English and mathematics lessons are given prominence in other subjects
- arrange pupil progress meetings more frequently
- add smart, measurable targets within the school improvement plan so that reviewers can judge whether the school is moving towards its goals frequently
- consider the current arrangements for the post of Senco in the school.

Evidence

During the inspection I met with you and your deputy, three middle leaders and the Chair of the Governing Body. I held a telephone conversation with a representative of the local authority. During these meetings I reviewed a number of documents and discussed the action that has been taken since the last inspection. You took me on a tour of the school to observed pupils in their classrooms.

Context

Two members of staff left the school at the end of summer term. A Key Stage 2 teacher, who is also an assistant headteacher and the leader for English, took up their post on 1 September 2014. An attendance officer has also been appointed.

Main findings

You and other senior leaders have responded positively to the last inspection judgements. Many of the staff are inexperienced and new to their post which means that plans in place are yet to be tested. It is too early to judge whether staff will all take responsibility for making sure that the pupils in their class make the progress of which they are capable. Meeting with class teachers more frequently, than at present, will enable you to discuss with them the progress being made by all pupils. It will also allow you to check if extra help is needed for individuals. There are other aspects of teaching that need to be monitored, for example ensuring that pupils' skills in English and mathematics have sufficient importance in other subjects. Consequently, observing all lessons and looking at a range of pupil's books is important and should be undertaken regularly.

The outcomes of the governors' review which was conducted just prior to the last inspection are being adopted through structured training and monitoring visits to the school. Governors are beginning to hold senior leaders to account more effectively because they understand the information presented to them. However there is an understanding that for some their skills are undeveloped.

The school improvement plan is a helpful document setting out precise dates for monitoring and reviewing different parts. However, it is unclear what the intermediate goals are for different activities because the document lacks milestones. As a result, you and external reviewers do not know if you are moving in the right direction.

I plan to monitor the progress being made carefully and a further visit will be made towards the end of the autumn term.

External support

Local authority officers have provided considerable support to you and your staff and they intend to monitor progress closely as you start to implement and develop your plans. You have initiated links with other primary schools in the borough and staff welcome the opportunity to discuss different aspects of teaching and learning with other colleagues. Much of this work is at an early stage and it is too early to judge whether it will have the desired effect.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Kingston upon Hull.

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young

Her Majesty's Inspector