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Karen Lea
Interim Headteacher
Lingwood Primary and Nursery School
Station Road
Lingwood
Norwich
NR13 4AZ

Dear Ms Lea

Special measures monitoring inspection of Lingwood Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 18 September 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 June 2014.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with you, members of the senior leadership team, other members of staff and a representative of the local authority. A phone discussion was held with the Chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB). The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated.

Context

On the 8 September 2014, the school moved from split sites onto a new, purpose-built site.

On 1 September 2014, an interim executive board was put in place by the local authority. The board has met once. The interim headteacher, in place at the previous inspection, remains in post following the retirement of the substantive headteacher.

One teacher has left the school and a supply teacher is currently covering this post.

The specially resourced provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties was decommissioned at the end of the summer term and four of its pupils rejoined the main school in September 2014.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The move to a new building has contributed to a positive and determined approach by all staff to improve. Many of the actions you have taken are already having a positive impact. In a relatively short time, you have introduced systems to support the development of teaching and learning. These include performance management, lesson observations and work scrutiny. Staff, rightly, have confidence in your vision and determination to improve pupils' progress. They feel valued and are rising to the challenge set for them.

You and your leadership team have continued to act decisively to improve teaching and learning. This year's ambitious targets for Year 6 have set higher expectations for pupils and staff alike. To achieve the improvements in teaching required, school leaders have established a range of staff development opportunities. These include the improving teacher programme and the use of coaching between teachers.

At the time of the inspection in June, safeguarding was judged inadequate. This is no longer the case. All staff are now checked as required by law and all staff have received child protection training. The new site is safe and secure, and pupils are benefiting from the new facilities.

The school and local authority action plans address appropriately all the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. The plans clearly state who is responsible for leading actions. They also specify what the intended impact on pupils' achievement is and how this will be measured.

The local authority has brokered appropriate support for the development of curriculum and subject leadership. A staff training plan has been established, along with a system to monitor the impact of this training. The school was fully involved in developing these plans.

Members of the interim executive board are highly experienced in governance and school leadership, and its Chair demonstrates an accurate awareness of the key areas for development. The headteacher, the Chair of the Interim Executive Board and the local authority representative have very clear views of what needs to be done, and each has an appropriate sense of urgency.

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

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

The school's action plan is 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 Interim Executive Board and the Director of Children's Services for Norfolk. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mary Rayner
Her Majesty's Inspector