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25 September 2014

Miss Helen Bunting
Headteacher
Gilberdyke Primary School
Scalby Lane
Gilberdyke
Brough
HU15 2SS

Dear Miss Bunting

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Gilberdyke Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire

Following my visit to your school on 24 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 June 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 are responsible equally for the progress made by pupils of all abilities in their class
- review and clarify the reasons why girls make considerably more progress than boys and check whether this situation is going to continue
- sharpen the school improvement plan so that the milestones indicated reflect leaders expectations precisely and can be checked by easily by governors
- ensure that all pupils do better in their phonic work (the sounds made by letters) and thus reach higher standards than is the case at present

- confirm that writing, especially that done by boys, is given prominence in all classes and all subjects.

Evidence

During the inspection, I met with you and two of your senior colleagues, the Chair and three members of the governing body. I also held a telephone conversation with the School Improvement Partner. During meetings we discussed the 2014 national test results and your information about the progress all pupils make in all classes. I also evaluated your school improvement plan.

Context

Six members of staff took up their posts on 1 September 2014, three of whom are new to teaching. A teacher who has responsibility for pupils with special educational needs has also been appointed.

Main findings

Senior leaders have a clear idea where barriers exist currently and have started to implement plans so that all pupils make the progress of which they are capable. Issues identified at the section 5 inspection have been supplemented to include improving pupils' phonic work and also to investigate why girls make better progress than boys. It is important for all teachers to take responsibility for ensuring that all pupils of different abilities make good progress in all subjects in their classes. You described the changes that have already taken place to encourage all pupils, but particularly boys, to write regularly. As yet, it is too early to assess the impact of this work.

I met with a number of governors who are under no illusions that despite some changes, more improvements are needed. Their links with staff enable them to understand from their first hand evidence where progress is being made. Governors are right to be ambitious for the school but need to be realistic and to assure themselves that pupils make progress in all classes and the quality of teaching overall improves.

The school development plan reflects key issues. However, milestones need to be more precise so that leaders and governors can judge if the interventions planned are having the desired effect.

I may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

Local authority officers are aware of the work already achieved and what still needs to be done. A monitoring visit is due to be held next month. Senior leaders are developing informal links with a local school so that they can discuss issues and share practice at all levels.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for East Riding of Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young

Her Majesty's Inspector