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Simon Field
Headteacher
Cavendish Close Junior School
Deborah Drive
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4RJ

Dear Mr Field

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cavendish Close Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 14 October 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 July 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. At its previous inspection, the school was also judged to require improvement.

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 Governing Body, members of the teaching staff, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I visited all classrooms briefly and held discussions with some pupils. I looked at a sample of the pupils' exercise books and checked the school's record of recruitment checks. The school's Post-Ofsted Action Plan was evaluated.

Context

A new headteacher took up post at the school at the beginning of this term.

Main findings

You have taken action quickly to increase the number of checks on the quality of the work of the school. You have used the activities simultaneously to increase the level of involvement by other leaders and managers in checking the work of the school, for example, in lesson observations. The governing body has also increased its activity to find out for itself what is happening at the school.

You have also used the opportunity provided by the activities to improve the management of the teachers' performance by identifying specific objectives regarding their teaching practice. The feedback given to the teachers is helping them to focus more on providing a range of work for the pupils designed to increase the level of challenge for them. The teachers are better informed than previously about the individual pupils and different groups within their classes and are using the information to devise more-interesting learning activities.

You have clarified the expectations of the teachers regarding the marking of the pupils' work. Marking is now being done more consistently to the standard expected, although there were differences apparent in the quality of marking, for example, in numeracy, compared with literacy.

You are putting more emphasis on evaluating the impact of activities to support pupils at risk of underachieving. You are making better use of data to check that differences in the achievement of particular groups are decreasing. You have begun to analyse how effectively you use the pupil premium (additional government funding) to improve the achievement of the eligible pupils, but have not yet arranged for the external review called for in the inspection report.

The school's Post-Ofsted Action Plan focuses well on the areas for improvement from the inspection. It proposes a range of suitable actions to tackle them, though over a short period of time only. It does not set out clearly the arrangements for how the school will check on progress in implementing the plan and in evaluating how successful it has been, including what role will be played by the governing body.

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 has benefited from a productive relationship with its local authority adviser, who has assisted, for example, in arranging for a link with another good school and supported leaders and managers at the school in improving their use of

data about the pupils' achievement. The school's Post Ofsted Action Plan does not make clear, however, how the school will use the full range of support available.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for insert local authority name and as below.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector

Cc. Chair of the Governing Body

Cc. Local authority