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22 October 2014

Ms Lisa Andrews
Headteacher
Wath Central Primary School
Fitzwilliam Street
Wath-upon-Dearne
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S63 7HG

Dear Ms Andrews

Special measures monitoring inspection of Wath Central Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 21 October 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 the headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated.

Context

There have been some contextual changes since the section 5 inspection with a temporary replacement for one teacher who is on maternity leave and long term supply cover for a teacher who has resigned.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The governing body has responded positively to the recommendations in the section 5 inspection report and an external review of governance has been instigated. Governors have devised their own action plan and a clear annual timetable of events to monitor and evaluate the school's work. Members of the governing body are undertaking a range of training designed to ensure they are better able to hold the headteacher and other leaders to account for their work. The Chair and vice-chair are reflective and understand that there are key areas for development in governance. The governance review is scheduled and in preparation the governing body, aided by the headteacher, has carried out a skills audit. As a result, the governing body has restructured its work so that governors' roles are more clearly defined and appropriate to individual skills; sub-committees function more effectively; and there is now a clear reporting process to the full governing body.

All staff have undergone training in safeguarding pupils. The local authority's lead for safeguarding has conducted an audit and leaders have acted on the resulting recommendations. Risk assessments have been scrutinised and procedures amended so that the single central record is now compliant and leaders regularly check its content.

The recommended review of the use and impact of pupil premium funding (additional government money) is planned for January. In the interim, there is an increased focus on the impact of this funding allocation in pupil progress meetings, where the progress and attainment of individual pupils are reviewed regularly. The headteacher believes this system is more thorough than was previously the case and, as a result and where required, intervention to support the learning of disadvantaged pupils is happening more quickly.

The local authority is providing focused and purposeful support, including with the parents' meeting following the inspection. The local authority has appointed a National Leader of Governance to support the governing body through the review of its work. A review of learning has taken place and specific feedback has been given to school leaders to provide a sound baseline from which to work. Support from an executive headteacher is facilitating opportunities for staff to access models of good practice.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.
The school's improvement 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 Governing Body and the Commissioner of Children's Services for Rotherham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Wiles

Associate Inspector

Appointed as an Additional Inspector, under the powers relating to additional inspectors, in paragraph 11 of Part 2 of Schedule 12 to the Education and Inspections Act 2006.