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7 May 2015

Ms C Lavelle
Principal
Pegasus Primary School
Turnhouse Road
Castle Vale
Birmingham
B35 6PR

Dear Ms Lavelle

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Pegasus Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 6 May 2015, 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 January 2015. 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.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with the principal and other senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body, and the chief executive and primary director of the multi-academy trust to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. The inspector visited parts of several lessons with the principal to look at day-to-day classroom practice and scrutinize pupils' work.

Main findings

The principal has quickly established her clear vision for teaching and learning, engendering the support of school leaders and staff. She has changed the staffing

structure, revisited senior and middle leadership responsibilities and linked them to performance criteria. She has lead a substantial review of the curriculum that further extends the school's approach to making sure work and activities are interesting enough for pupils to engage enthusiastically with their work. Lessons address 'the big question' that pupils help to write at the start of a topic. Firm monitoring of teaching quality coupled to high expectations of what pupils are capable of achieving has improved teaching consistency and increased the challenge to all abilities of pupils. This has also helped some staff reflect on their roles, and make choices that allow more effective contributions to school improvement. Teachers are improving the accuracy of their feedback to pupils. There is good work in place to develop problem solving in mathematics, as pupils record their thinking by writing detailed notes to show their working-out. There is frequent tracking of pupil progress, driven by the academy sponsors' trust-wise expectations. This includes tracking the progress of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, which then steers better in-class support for these pupils alongside their peers.

Competent governance is effectively supported by the external specialist support from the academy trust. Although the formal review requested by Ofsted has yet to take place, the governors had already instigated their own review prior to the inspection but had not acted upon its findings in time to show impact. In particular they have redressed previous shortfalls that led to performance management decisions being only weakly linked to pupil progress.

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

External support

Ninestiles multi-academy trust is providing good specialist primary education support for the principal, including support for the restructuring of management roles within the school, and help with a substantial refurbishment of the early years settings. The school has a high proportion of newly or recently qualified teachers who are benefitting from access to training and development from the trust and its primary partners. There is also very effective support for the school from the local community organisation. This allows coordinated work to support families facing difficult circumstances. In combination with the work of the schools' own attendance support officer that is helping to raise attendance across all years.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Academy Council, the Director of Children's Services for Birmingham, the Chief Executive of Ninestiles Academy Trust and as below.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cartwright
Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority – including where the school is an academy
- For academies [CausingConcern.SCHOOLS@education.gsi.gov.uk]