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18 September 2023

Hayley Richley
Principal
Oak Academy
Duck Lane
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Dear Mrs Richley

Requires improvement monitoring inspection of Oak Academy

This letter sets out the findings from the monitoring inspection of your school that took place on 19 July 2023, on behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills. The monitoring inspection was carried out under section 8(2) of the Education Act 2005 and took place because the school has received three successive judgements of requires improvement at its previous graded (section 5) inspections.

During the inspection, I discussed with you and other senior leaders, the CEO of the multi-academy trust, other staff and trustees the actions that have been taken to improve the school since the most recent graded inspection. We discussed the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also visited lessons, met with pupils and looked at pupils' work. I have considered all this in coming to my judgement.

Oak Academy continues to require improvement. Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to become good.

The school should take further action to:

- ensure the intended curriculum is implemented effectively in all subjects, for all pupils.

Main findings

There have been some changes to leadership roles since the last inspection. With support from the trust, leadership roles now clearly align with the school's improvement priorities.

This has enabled you to focus on improving areas such as attendance and behaviour.

You have had a sharp focus on the development of the quality of education this year. Leaders have provided support to new and established staff to implement the curriculum more effectively so that pupils know and remember more. Staff are now more ambitious for pupils. Staff have higher expectations of what pupils can do. These higher expectations are starting to be reflected in pupils' work and their engagement in learning. However, as some curriculum changes are still being embedded, this is not yet having an impact in all areas and for all pupils.

You have continued to prioritise reading. Many pupils arrive at your school with reading ages below their chronological age. You have robust systems in place to support these pupils to catch up.

Following the last inspection, you and your team have ensured that processes in place to support good behaviour are known by staff and pupils and followed consistently. Additionally, your work to eliminate derogatory language is having an impact. This has been recognised by pupils. Many pupils are positive about the school and value the relationships they have with adults.

The school has been identified as a priority school within the trust. Trust leaders have supported you on your improvement journey. They systematically review aspects of your work and provide challenge through the Academy Priority Support Committee. This support has been effective. As a result, you have implemented clear and coherent systems, which are widely understood and used by all staff.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer of the Ambitions Academies Trust, the Department for Education's regional director and the director of children's services for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. This letter will be published on the Ofsted reports website.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Griffin
His Majesty's Inspector