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5 November 2013

Emma Flawn
Camps Hill Community Primary School
Chells Way
SG2 0LT

Dear Mrs Flawn

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Camps Hill Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 4 November 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings of my visit. 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 May 2013. 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:

- embed and develop further the systems for improving teaching that are increasing the proportion that is good or better.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, subject leaders, pastoral leaders, pupils, nine members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. A tour of the school was undertaken with the deputy headteacher and yourself to observe teaching. Documents relating to the performance management of staff, the school's self-evaluation and the progress currently made by pupils were discussed.

Context

Since the last inspection, a senior leader with responsibility for mathematics has joined the school.

Main findings

You have amended the school action plan and created a timetable for monitoring activities that is ensuring all staff are sharing in the work to improve the school. The work being done to improve the school's provision that was commended at the last inspection has continued and the impact is being seen in a number of areas, especially in the progress that pupils in the lower years are making.

Teachers are benefitting from personalised training and coaching to improve their practice. As a result, there is no teaching that is inadequate and an increasing proportion is good or outstanding. You have created detailed profiles of all teachers that allow you to effectively challenge and support them to improve their practice.

Subject coordinators are benefitting from links with their counterparts in other schools and are receiving further training to help them fulfil their roles. You and your senior team are preparing thoroughly for the demands that the imminent changes to the National Curriculum will require. Teachers are capitalising on the good behaviour of the pupils to provide more opportunities to work independently.

A major success has been the work to engage parents and improve the reputation of the school in the local community. A vastly increased number of parents are sharing their views through surveys and providing practical support through generously giving their time to improve the play areas. The school is rapidly becoming the first choice for parents.

The displays in the school are impressive and contribute well to learning. Imaginative use of space in the school has allowed you to create small areas where intervention work can be carried out with a number of smaller groups. This work is already having an impact on standards in writing, where the number of pupils gaining level 5 has doubled, and in grammar.

The governors have reorganised their ways of working to improve the way they challenge and support the school. They are undertaking training to extend their skills and understanding and take every opportunity to check that the information they are given about improvements in the school are accurate.

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 local authority is challenging the school through regular monitoring activities. A full review is planned for the spring term. They are also providing links with successful schools, training on a range of topics and supporting the moderation of judgements to make sure self-evaluation is accurate.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Taylor
Her Majesty's Inspector