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28 January 2016

Mr Ed Seeley
Headteacher
Edgewood Primary and Nursery School
Edgewood Drive
Hucknall
Nottingham
NG15 6HX

Dear Mr Seeley

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Edgewood Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 15 January 2016, 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in March 2014. 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 in order to become a good school.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher and other senior leaders. I also met with two members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. During the visit, you joined me on a tour of the school where I spoke with pupils informally about their work and looked at their books. The school action plan and other school documentation were scrutinised. I checked the single central record and other safeguarding arrangements.

Context

Since the last inspection, four new teachers have been appointed. Of the four, one teacher also leads the early years, a second teacher leads mathematics and Key Stage 2. An assistant headteacher has retired.

Main findings

Since my last visit, you have continued to move forward with urgency to bring about the necessary changes to raise outcomes for your pupils. You and the deputy headteacher demonstrate determination to provide the pupils with a curriculum that challenges and develops them as learners so that they are well prepared for their futures. Your plans for improvement focus sharply on the required developments in teaching and learning in order to raise attainment. The governing body know exactly what needs to improve and provide regular and robust challenge to you and other senior leaders.

You are ably supported by the new leadership team. The leaders of mathematics and English know their subjects well. They are rigorous in checking the quality of teaching and its impact on pupils' progress. Subject leaders take responsibility to ensure they are well informed and work widely with other organisations nationally to make sure they bring broad and well-researched solutions to the challenges you face in raising attainment. As a result, the leadership of the school is well distributed and the ambition you demonstrated at my last visit is now shared among the wider team. Consequently, improvements are moving forward at a rapid pace.

You have continued to improve the quality of teaching. As a result of the new assessment systems, introduced by the deputy headteacher, teachers focus on precisely what their pupils need to learn in mathematics, reading and writing. You carefully track how well pupils are doing and respond quickly if they are off track to meet their learning goals. As a result, standards are rising quickly across the school and many pupils are making rapid progress in their learning. However, there is still a small pocket of underachievement in writing that you are working hard to eradicate, particularly for the oldest pupils in the school.

You have improved the attendance of pupils. You work closely with the governing body and external agencies to challenge and encourage parents to ensure that their children are at school regularly and on time. You work sensitively with families and pupils who need support to come to school. However, you and the governing body are not afraid to insist that those pupils with low attendance come to school much more regularly. As a result, there have been significant improvements in attendance, especially for disadvantaged pupils.

External support

The local authority continues to offer effective 'light touch' support to senior leaders to check the quality of teaching and learning at the school. The school adviser

checks the quality of work in pupils' books and meets with school leaders to challenge and support further improvement in pupils' outcomes.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor
Her Majesty's Inspector