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Mrs Alice Littlehailes
Headteacher
St Luke's CofE Primary School
Spire Hollin
Glossop
SK13 7BS

Dear Mrs Littlehailes

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Luke's CofE Primary School, Derbyshire

Following my visit to your school on 3 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the governing body, and a representative of the local authority. The school development plan was evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staffing or changes in the school's status since the last inspection.

Main findings

School leaders show determination to improve the overall effectiveness of the school to become good or outstanding. They have wasted no time in beginning to address the areas for improvement identified at the time of the last inspection. The school improvement plan has been revised and improved, providing clear guidance to staff and the governing body about how teaching will be improved and standards raised.

Actions in the plan are directly linked to the impact they are intended to make on raising pupils' achievement. It was confirmed that senior leaders expect all teaching to be good by the end of the academic year. Leaders agreed to amend the plan to include clearer targets against which the governors will conduct regular checks on the progress being made.

School leaders are providing training to help all teachers to improve. However, not all teachers are given their own specific targets so their progress in making improvements can be measured.

The governing body has a good understanding of what the school needs to do to improve and governors have received appropriate training to help them to develop the necessary skills to better hold the school to account. However, they do not always receive enough guidance from the school as to how they can become more involved in checking the progress being made against each priority in the school's action plan.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- ensure the development plan is clear about the leadership's expectations that all teaching is at least good and contains clear targets so that progress can be measured
- ensure that governors play a full role in checking on the progress being made against each priority in the development plan
- ensure that teachers are given clear targets to help them to improve and leaders check regularly on the progress being made in meeting these targets.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. The headteacher will submit the school's revised action plan to the HMI by the end of the Autumn Term 2012.

External support

Since the last inspection the local authority has worked with the school to improve the quality of the school development plan, to support the improvement of mathematics teaching, to help the governing body to develop their skills in analysing the schools assessment information, and to work with senior leaders to improve their skills in observing the quality of teaching. All support has been appropriate to the school's needs and has been welcomed and appreciated by senior leaders and the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector