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Headteacher
Kingsweston School
Napier Miles Road
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Dear Mr Galloway

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Kingsweston School

Following my visit to your school on Friday 14 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plans and records of visits by local authority improvement officers were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, two new governors have joined the governing body. Three senior leadership posts have been created to improve teaching and to strengthen support for pupils with communication difficulties.

Main findings

The school improvement plan has been updated to focus on the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. It combines appropriately the existing skills of teachers with support from the local authority's learning

improvement service to raise the proportion of good or better teaching. The plan contains targets, which are set in a realistic timescale, and suitable resources are identified and costed. In a few areas, the ability of senior leaders and the governing body to monitor the plan's success is limited by a lack of detail on the intended impact of actions.

Staff have begun reviewing teaching and learning across the school with a view to clarifying and sharing the features of best practice. To date, this review has involved descriptions of good teaching in broad terms. The specific approaches which are successful with pupils who have severe learning difficulties or an autistic spectrum condition have yet to be set out in detail.

The governing body has taken steps to strengthen its membership and has engaged in an external review of its role. Currently its work is being audited with a programme of training planned to begin in the spring term. The governing body has increased its knowledge and understanding of the school's performance but is not yet in a position to provide a high level of challenge.

Senior leaders and governors are taking 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:

- improve the ability of governors and senior leaders to monitor the school's work by adding further detail to the school improvement plan on how the impact of initiatives will be measured
- support the sharing of good practice by setting out more clearly the features of best teaching.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

A good range of external support from the local authority has been provided quickly following the recent inspection. It is effective in helping the school to improve teaching and learning and has included lesson observations, work with groups of staff and planning to provide suitable challenge for more capable pupils.

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

Yours sincerely

Andrew Redpath
Her Majesty's Inspector