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18 March 2013

Mr R Badley
Headteacher
Mangotsfield School
Rodway Hill
Bristol
BS16 9LH

Dear Mr Badley

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Mangotsfield School

Following my visit to your school on 18 March 2013, 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 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit I held meetings were held with the headteacher, the senior leadership team, representatives of the Governing Body, two groups of students, and representatives from the local authority. School improvement and action plans were evaluated. I also discussed documentation and the systems for monitoring and improving the quality of teaching, learning, leadership and management.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staff or the school's organisation since the inspection.

Main findings

Senior leaders and the Governing Body have responded positively to the judgements of the January 2013 inspection. They are determined to improve the school's performance to good. They have taken assertive action to address weaker teaching and have visited other schools to learn from best practice. They have instigated new policies and practices with the aim of raising the quality of teaching and learning across the school. The school has implemented five non-negotiable aspects for every

lesson. Senior leaders have been checking the consistency of teachers following the introduction of the new policy by making unannounced short lesson observations. Some governors and middle leaders have also accompanied senior leaders on these 'learning walks'. Through these visits and the better use of data, middle and subject leaders are being helped to develop their skills in observing lessons, advising colleagues how to improve and challenging them to improve when teaching is not good or better. However, there is much more to do to ensure greater consistency of good teaching and learning; particularly regarding improving the quality of marking and making best use of time in lessons to develop students' thinking skills

Action and improvement plans state what needs to be done, by when and by whom. Accurate measuring, to more finely honed and targeted success criteria, will ensure that the school focusses on the pertinent actions that need to be swiftly undertaken.

Senior leaders and the Governing Body have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following my visit to the school, I recommended that further action is taken to:

- ensure that students are not asked to make copious notes or waste valuable learning time by doing routine repetitive tasks
- ensure all teachers consistently follow the school's lesson and marking policies
- continue to rigorously address weaker teaching by enabling and ensuring middle and subject leaders hold colleagues robustly to account for the progress made by all students
- review the impact of the actions taken by the school in accelerating students' progress.

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

External support

The support provided by the local authority is valued by the school. Regular advice, visits and effective consultancy support have been provided. The monitoring visits cover the scrutiny of relevant documentation, the effectiveness of the school using the support provided, the impact of actions taken, and the school's capacity to sustain its own improvements.

I am copying this letter to the Co-Chairs of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for South Gloucestershire and The Education Funding Agency.

Yours sincerely

Steffi Penny

Her Majesty's Inspector