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Ms Kathleen O'Sullivan
Headteacher
Stamford Hill Primary School
Berkeley Road
London
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Dear Ms O'Sullivan

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Stamford Hill Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 23 April 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, meetings were held with the headteacher, the subject coordinators for English and mathematics, the Chair and another member of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority, several support staff and a group of pupils. The school improvement plan was evaluated, and documentary evidence was scrutinised including minutes of governing body meetings, a sample of pupils' books, and the outcomes of teaching observations and external reviews.

Context

Since the section 5 inspection, one teacher has left the school and a member of the senior team has gone on long-term absence. Appropriate steps have been taken to cover these posts until the teaching staff has been restructured.

Main findings

The improvement initiatives noted changes noted in the inspection report have continued. This includes use of performance management to raise expectations and move staff when targets are not met. Improvement plans are well thought out; key issues are addressed systematically and linked to measurable success criteria and

'progress milestones'. Teachers have a better grasp of how they can improve their planning and teaching. Observation of good practice and training with outstanding schools, led by National Leaders of Education, is making teachers more determined to set and attain high standards for their pupils. The full impact of this work in the Early Years Foundation Stage is yet to be seen. However, there is more tangible evidence in Key Stages 1 and 2 that changes are having a positive effect on pupils' learning. The emphasis on writing accurately and at length for different purposes is evident in pupils' work. Assessment information in mathematics indicates that targeted pupils, including some of the more able, are benefiting from the specialist support provided. Pupils say that behaviour is much improved; they are calmer and have more time to learn in lessons because of the new arrangements for a shorter lunch-break.

Very experienced governors have been recruited to strengthen the governing body. They plan strategically and their influence can be seen in the way they are using their action planning, training and expertise to provide sharper challenge.

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

- build on the work started with the partner schools and local authority to accelerate the planned changes for Early Years Foundation Stage.

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

External support

You have worked productively with the National and Specialist Leaders of Education to develop the leadership skills of middle leaders, and improve teaching. Together, you have a clear understanding of what needs to be done; this is reflected in the planned schedule of actions. The local authority is very supportive; targeted training on assessment information has increased governors' understanding of challenging underperformance. The local authority's review of the impact of changes and role in arranging the partnership work has helped you and the governing body to map out a long term plan for the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Carmen Rodney
Her Majesty's Inspector