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20 May 2013

Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Owens
Bakewell Methodist Junior School
Stoney Close
Bakewell
DE45 1FR

Dear Mrs Owens

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Bakewell Methodist Junior School, Derbyshire local authority.

Following my visit to your school on 17 May 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 met with you, representatives of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Also, I was taken on a brief tour of the school, visiting all classrooms, guided by pupils from Year 5.

Context

There have been no significant changes in the context of the school since the section 5 inspection, which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

Your post-inspection action plan deals thoroughly with all of the areas for improvement from the inspection. By writing the plan separately from your school

improvement plan, you have ensured that the school has concentrated on making the required improvements. You have made good use of support from the local authority and of what you learned at an Ofsted 'Getting to good' seminar in doing so and, as a result, your efforts are already leading to improvements in the quality of teaching. Comments made by the pupils reflect more-rigorous application of the school's marking scheme and improved planning by the teachers.

There have been important developments in the governance of the school. The governors have become more focussed on the things that need improving, more involved in the work to bring about the improvements, and more systematic in how they carry out their work. They display a clear sense of determination; however, the changes they have made are still at an early stage of implementation.

You and the senior leaders at the school and the governors are beginning to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following my visit to the school, I recommend that:

- you and the governors develop a clear action plan for the continued improvement of governance, based upon the audit and review that governors are proposing to carry out
- you form a clear view of the time by which you intend the school will be good and adjust your school improvement plan accordingly
- I maintain contact with you and meet with you and the governors again to discuss the progress of the school.

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

External support

The local authority has provided good-quality advice and support to the school. It has been targeted well at bringing about the required improvements and been well received by the staff. There has been a good level of communication between the local authority and the governing body, which has assisted with the improvements to governance.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss
Her Majesty's Inspector