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Anne Senior
Tilney All Saints Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Shepherdsgate Road
Tilney All Saints
King's Lynn
PE34 4RP

Dear Mrs Senior

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Tilney All Saints Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 3 July 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and the Governing Body. A range of information was reviewed, including data concerning pupils' attainment and progress, and the school's improvement plans.

Context

New teachers have been appointed for both of the school's classes from the start of next term. The school is now part of a temporary partnership with a larger primary school. The two schools share the headteacher. There have also been substantial changes to membership of the Governing Body since the last inspection. There are separate governing bodies for each school; a small number of governors are on both schools' governing bodies. The partnership arrangement is to be reviewed in the next school year to consider if the school should become a federation and if there should be strengthened links with other schools in the Ely Diocese.

Main findings

The partnership with another school has led to a broader range of learning activities for pupils, for example to extend the learning opportunities for gifted and talented pupils. The partnership has also enabled effective sharing of curriculum leadership and expertise. There are well considered plans for the new school year to develop a shared senior leadership team and increased joint curriculum planning and coordination.

Improved moderation of teachers' assessment has provided greater confidence in the accuracy of information about of pupils' progress. The headteacher monitors closely the progress made by different groups of pupils who are at risk of underachieving. This close monitoring is already showing benefits, for example, additional support has provided a boost to the progress by a group of boys who were identified as doing less well than others of their age.

Appropriately ambitious targets are set for each pupil with the expectation that they will make more progress than is generally expected for their age and starting point. The careful monitoring of progress shows how successfully pupils are working towards achieving these targets.

There is a detailed action plan to tackle the areas for improvement that were identified at the inspection in November 2012. It does not however identify sufficiently clearly the intended impact of the actions to be taken on pupils' learning. The plan is currently being reviewed in light of the changes in school and curriculum leadership within the partnership arrangements.

Governors have become more knowledgeable about the school's quality and pupils' progress and, informed by this information, are providing effective challenge to the school's leadership and the effectiveness of improvement activities. They understand the importance of accurate assessment of pupils' attainments and, for example, that pupils are making greater progress in reading than they are in handwriting.

Governors are sensitive to parents' views about the school's partnership with a significantly larger primary school. They have spoken to parents as they bring their children to school to gather their views and provide reassurance if necessary. The overwhelming feedback has been one of the broader opportunities that the partnership is providing.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure the monitoring of pupils' progress is informed by scrutiny of their work, the quality of teachers' planning and their teaching.

Ofsted will carry out further visits to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority has had little contact with the school since the inspection in November 2012. It does not have a rigorously evidenced view of its development since this time.

It is recommended the local authority should monitor the school's improvement by seeking first-hand information of the effectiveness of its actions towards addressing the issues identified at its last inspection and provide any further support indicated by this monitoring.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Norfolk and Ely Diocese.

Yours sincerely

Charlie Henry
Her Majesty's Inspector