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17 July 2013

Nicholas Wollaston
Headteacher
Selsdon Primary and Nursery School
Addington Road
South Croydon
CR2 8LQ

Dear Mr Wollaston

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Selsdon Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 16 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and your deputy, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A series of brief visits were made to classrooms to look at the impact of the actions which the school has taken since the previous inspection. A range of documentation was reviewed, including a parents and community action plan and subject action plans.

Context

There have been no significant changes to the school since the previous inspection. An interim executive headteacher from another local school will lead the school from September 2013.

Main findings

The school's existing improvement plan has been revised so that it addresses all the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan would benefit from a strategic overview that identifies more precisely the timescales for the various actions and how the different actions work together to bring about improvement. The plan proposes reasonable actions and has some success criteria for judging progress. However, it would benefit from more interim milestones to help the governing body check regularly that the school's actions are making a difference to improving the quality of teaching and pupils' learning.

Governors had previously had training. As a result, they are able to interpret the information that the school is providing about the progress that pupils are making. They recognise that they previously had not been fully effective in holding the school to account. Improvements have been made to governance and governors are now asking the right, challenging questions. Governors are planning to commission an external review of governance to identify strengths and areas for further improvement in their work.

Teachers' planning has been reviewed to check that pupils are being given activities that are matched to their needs and starting points. Teachers have been supported during their planning time to help them develop this aspect of their practice. Teachers' planning now provides time in lessons when pupils can respond to teachers' comments in their books. Some of the pupils' work that was scrutinised demonstrated that pupils had responded to the teacher's helpful advice.

An audit has been completed to identify any deficiencies in equipment used for learning mathematics. This audit identified a lack of resources for weight, measure and capacity. Additional resources have been ordered for September to address this issue and staff training is planned so that teachers can exploit fully both new and existing resources.

Governors have adopted a new induction policy, which when implemented should provide new or inexperienced teachers with the information and support they need to be successful. A new partnership has been established with the local authority to support newly qualified teachers.

A postcard response system has been adopted so that senior leaders get timely feedback about how they have dealt with concerns raised by parents.

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 that there is a strategic overview of improvement planning

- ensure that the school's improvement plan specifies more precisely how and when the planned improvements will be evaluated

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority has continued to support the school by conducting regular school progress reviews. Interim arrangements for leadership of the school from September 2013 have been brokered by the local authority. Local authority officers have supported the school in developing aspects of teaching and learning in mathematics.

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

Yours sincerely

Robert Ellis
Her Majesty's Inspector