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11 September 2013

Mrs Moira Arnold
The Headteacher
Aylward Primary School
Pangbourne Drive
Stanmore
Middlesex
HA7 4RE

Dear Mrs Arnold

Special measures monitoring inspection of Aylward Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 10 September 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in May 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and the senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and the school improvement officer. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

Since the previous inspection, there have been no substantial changes to staffing. Currently, there are two long-term supply teachers with classroom responsibilities. A new Chair of the Governing Body took up post following the previous inspection. There are three vacancies on the governing body. The governing body and local authority are in discussion with the Department for Education on proposals for the school to convert to an academy.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The headteacher and senior leadership team have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. The school improvement plan has sensible priorities and is informed by accurate monitoring of the school's work. The plan includes clear and specific timetable of actions to tackle the school's weaknesses and success criteria for judging progress. Actions are linked closely to the findings of the most recent inspection and the local authority's statement of action. The plan is to be supported by short-term subject action plans that will be reviewed at regular intervals. There are strong systems in the school to support newly qualified teachers.

Members of the governing body are keen to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. Governors are supportive but do not yet play a strong enough part in shaping and driving improvement. The recommended external review of the governing body has yet to be completed fully. Safeguarding arrangements meet current requirements.

The local authority has moved speedily to secure a range of appropriate support for the school and to establish clear parameters for this so that it is manageable. The school receives effective and continuing support from the local authority's improvement officers who regularly visit and help monitor the work of the school. The local authority statement of action promotes the school's rapid improvement and identifies the individuals responsible for each action. The provisions for checking and evaluating the difference that actions have made are clear.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made.

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Kekshan Salaria
Her Majesty's Inspector