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Mr Yusuf Campbell
Humberstone Infant School
Main Street
Humberstone
LE5 1AE

Dear Mr Campbell

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Humberstone Infant School

Following my visit to your school on 4 November 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 September 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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 marking is developed further so that pupils' understanding of how to improve their work is deepened and they have time to respond to marking so that they know how well they are doing in their learning
- adapt the school improvement plan so that criteria for success are specifically linked to measurable outcomes for pupils.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with yourself and the deputy headteacher, the Chair and Vice-Chair 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. During the visit, you joined me on a tour of the

school where we visited each class to talk with pupils and look at their work and we observed one lesson together. I scrutinised a selection of pupils' books and reviewed the single central record.

Context

Since the last inspection, the interim headteacher has been appointed as the substantive headteacher from January 2014. A new literacy leader will begin work at the school in January 2014. An attendance officer has taken up their post. A new parent governor has taken up a role on the governing body. A new clerk to the governing body committees has been appointed.

Main findings

You responded quickly and positively to the findings of the last inspection. Both yourself, and your deputy headteacher demonstrate a determination and commitment to bringing about school improvement at a rapid pace. The school's improvement plans are accurately focused on the areas for improvement. However, the success criteria are not sharp enough and they are not sufficiently linked to improved outcomes for pupils. The timescales to address the areas for improvement are not tight enough to ensure that all teachers know exactly when you expect them to have acted to put new developments in place.

Since the last inspection, you have strengthened the role of the deputy headteacher so that both of you are checking the progress of pupils and providing individual support for teachers. This is having a positive impact on improving teaching and increasing the rates of progress pupils are making. Teachers are introducing lessons more effectively to enable pupils to engage quickly in independent activities. They are beginning to use questions that are more open-ended and, therefore, pupils have more opportunities to explain their thinking and learn from each other. Pupils are now working on tasks which are matched more closely to their needs.

Teachers' marking has improved. It now informs pupils of their successes in learning and they have opportunities to respond to what their teacher has said. Pupils enjoy correcting mistakes and improving their work. However, marking does not help pupils understand the next steps in their learning well enough.

Attendance has improved since the last inspection. The effective partnership with the education welfare officer and meetings with parents and carers has meant more pupils are attending regularly.

The governing body has responded quickly to address the issues from the last inspection. Governors have a good understanding of the areas identified for improvement. They are working with senior leaders to set the strategic direction for the school and they visit the school regularly to check for themselves how well the school is progressing. Training, led by the Chair of the Governing Body, is supporting

other governors to feel more confident to ask challenging questions of senior leaders. Governors are now looking more closely at different groups of pupils and have a better understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.

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 provided effective support through training and the provision of a mentor to develop the newly appointed headteacher's leadership skills. It has also provided valuable support to the governing body to appoint the substantive headteacher. A programme is planned to support the new English coordinator when she takes up her post.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Leicester City Council.

Yours sincerely

Jan Connor
Her Majesty's Inspector