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Emma Stritt
Headteacher
Trannack Primary School
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Helston
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Dear Mrs Stritt

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Trannack Primary School

Following my visit to your school on Friday 17 October, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. 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 June 2014. 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:

- sharpen the school development plan by inserting termly milestones that clearly indicate the steps to becoming a good school. The plan should also; articulate the urgency and expectations precisely to staff, and include external evaluations conducted on behalf of the governing body
- ensure that monitoring activities focus precisely on improvements to pupils' achievements
- make arrangements for senior leaders and governors attend an Ofsted seminar, Getting to Good.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, eight pupils from Years 4-6 and six members of the Governing Body. A telephone call was held with a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. A range of documents were evaluated including, the school improvement plan, minutes of governing body meetings, visit notes from local authority monitoring, the outcome of an external review of governance, pupils' work and the school's monitoring records.

Context

There have been no significant changes since the last full inspection in June 2014.

Main findings

Senior leaders responded quickly to the findings of the last full inspection by conducting an open meeting for all staff, governors and parents. This enabled the school community to immediately overcome any disappointment and move forward collectively in tackling the areas of development identified in the report.

The headteacher has taken a number of actions which, together, are raising the expectation and aspirations for all. Visits to a local outstanding school have resulted in new systems for the marking of pupils' work. Staff and most pupils report that this new approach is more helpful at identifying what pupils have done well and what they need to do next to improve. A new scheme of work for personal social health and education (PSHE) is helping to reinforce pupils' higher expectation when helping and working with each other. Pupils recognise that behaviour has improved because 'teachers are nice, but now stricter'. The quality of teachers' planning has also improved. By identifying individual pupils in daily planning, activities are now being more closely matched to their needs. Dedicated lessons which focus on pupils' problem solving skills in mathematics are supplementing the daily mathematics lessons well. Pupils enjoy these additional sessions and the challenge of applying their knowledge of formal calculations in a variety of difference formats and contexts.

The introduction of termly meetings to check on pupils' progress is enabling school leaders to hold class teachers to account more closely. Currently, senior leaders analyse pupil performance data and evaluate the impact of any additional support pupils receive. Any underachievement is therefore quickly identified. All teachers provide evidence of their performance against the teacher's standards and their personal targets. The headteacher is aware that teachers now need to take even more ownership of analysing the performance of pupils in their class in order to accurately judge their overall performance.

The school development plan accurately aligns to the areas for development identified in the last full inspection report. It clearly specifies proposed actions to bring about the necessary improvements to teaching and pupils' achievement. The headteacher has combined the plan with a detailed cycle of activities to check on the success of changes to planning, the curriculum and teaching. However, the plan requires interim milestones that so that governors and the local authority can accurately check what impact these actions are having on improving pupils' achievement.

The governing body responded quickly to the inspection by conducting an external review of its effectiveness. They have used the detailed findings to devise an action plan and cleverly incorporated this into the school development plan. Learning walks to gather first hand evidence on the work of the school are now well established. Local authority training to interpret data and ask challenging questions is helping governors become increasingly effective. Governors recognise that attendance at an Ofsted seminar, Getting to Good, and the increased use of external evaluations would enable them to contribute even more strongly to school developments.

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 school is drawing well on support from the local authority. Support brokered from a local outstanding school is allowing senior leaders to work alongside and learn from best practice. Training to support the headteacher is being used well to improve the strategic leadership of the school. Detailed reports from local authority officers provide a good level of information and guidance from which senior leaders can draw. The external review of governance has enabled governors to identify their strengths and weaknesses and target local authority training to improve their overall effectiveness.

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

Yours sincerely

Richard Light
Her Majesty's Inspector