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4 July 2007

Mr D Lawrence
The Headteacher
Kingsland CE(C) Primary School
Werrington Road
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Staffordshire
ST2 9AS

Dear Mr Lawrence

Ofsted Monitoring of Schools with Notice to Improve

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 26 June 2007, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 15 and 16 November 2006, the school was asked to improve achievement and particularly that of the more able, and ensure all pupils have guidance on how to improve their work.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievements.

The school has continued to work hard to improve. The school's data indicates that it should attain above its floor targets. All pupils are now making at least satisfactory progress. The majority of pupils are now making good progress of more than four sub levels of the National Curriculum. Standards of work in pupils' books show an improvement in the quality and quantity of writing. Challenge to higher attaining pupils is now better. Teachers now have appropriately high expectations of what all pupils can achieve. The systematic approach to teaching writing has ensured that the higher ability pupils use a technical vocabulary well, analyse text and apply these skills to improve their own writing.

Teaching and learning have continued to improve. The school's own monitoring indicates that no teaching is inadequate. From the evidence of my joint lesson

observations, I agree. The strategy for grouping pupils according to their ability has increased challenge and tailored pupil support. Year 6 teachers are now also teaching Year 5 pupils. This is preparing them effectively for their work in Year 6 and ensuring that they settle well into their final year at school. Teachers' planning is thorough and the increasing range of teaching strategies helps pupils understand how to improve their work. Nevertheless, at times, questioning does not sufficiently help pupils to develop their thinking and explain their ideas, the pace of learning slows in lessons when pupils stay overlong on an activity, and there is inconsistency in how the marking policy is applied. When assessment practice is good, teachers' comments clearly explain to pupils how they can improve, pupils' targets are stated in the front of their books, and pupils annotate them to indicate what they have done to achieve them. In the best lessons pupils are encouraged to peer and self assess.

Monitoring is regular and rigorous. Detailed records are maintained and feedback given to teachers. The strategic committee of the governing body closely scrutinises monitoring reports. Monitoring information informs and supports whole school training on a regular basis. However, the focus of monitoring needs to broaden. Questioning skills need to improve to ensure that all staff are developing pupils' thinking and understanding. The overall lesson evaluation should therefore include a judgement on the quality of questioning.

The local authority continues to support the school effectively. The school has grown in confidence and has, increasingly, taken control of the improvement agenda. It is now sufficiently capable of pursuing its improvement programme with support, carefully targeted as necessary.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Michelle Parker".

Michelle Parker
Her Majesty's Inspector