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Mrs Louise Watkins
Cliff Park Junior School
Orde Avenue
Gorleston
Great Yarmouth
NR31 6SZ

Dear Mrs Watkins

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cliff Park Junior School

Following my visit to your academy on 26 November 2015, 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in February 2015. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors continue to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order to become a good school.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with you, the executive headteacher of Cliff Park Schools Trust and the trust leader for teaching, learning and assessment. We reviewed the actions you have taken since my previous visit, your school Ofsted action plan and your systems to monitor the quality of teaching and learning. We discussed the Key Stage 2 results for 2015 and reviewed your pupils' targets for 2016. I reviewed your single central record and safeguarding arrangements.

Context

Since my previous visit your senior leadership team has remained stable. Several teachers have left your school and two further teachers are scheduled to leave at the end of this term. You have been successful in filling all teaching vacancies.

Main findings

Staff and governors continue to be committed to moving the school forwards and getting to good quickly. You actively seek support from educational experts, locally and nationally, and apply their advice as it suits the needs of your school. You ensure that staff and governors receive the correct training and measure the impact of all professional development against the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. You have a robust monitoring system that ensures that all staff are reflective about their strength and areas for development. Your systems for assessing pupils' progress are thorough and your judgements are checked within school and through local cluster schools. You have instigated moderation at a regional and national level to verify that your assessments are accurate.

Your action plan rightly prioritises improving teaching and learning, and you have introduced a variety of systems and schemes that have had a positive impact on pupils' outcomes. Your most recent data indicate an improvement in pupils' achievements in Year 6. Where specific groups of pupils have made less progress or achieved lower than expected, you have tackled this. Your actions this academic year have shown that many pupils' outcomes are continuing to improve. You are aware that this pace of improvement needs to continue and that pupils' attainment and progress needs to improve.

You have reflected on the content and delivery of your curriculum paying particular attention to engaging all groups of pupils. This has led to a dramatic change in how your staff teach, with an increased emphasis on creating challenge for all pupils. Teachers are developing an understanding of subject mastery and this has been effectively reviewed by your 'snapshot moderation' style of learning walks and scrutiny of pupils' workbooks.

At my previous visit, presentation in pupils' workbooks had started to improve. You are confident that this has improved further and you showed me examples of pupils' work that was well presented. You were also able to show me examples of your marking system, which is now used routinely throughout the school. This system provides pupils with the opportunity to respond to teachers' personalised feedback and improve their learning.

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

External support

The schools within the academy trust successfully work closely together and you share many professional development opportunities. You also access support from the local authority and other local and national educational organisations. You are proactive in seeking advice for issues that are linked directly to the school improvements recognised by staff, senior leaders and Ofsted.

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

Yours sincerely

Deborah Pargeter
Ofsted Inspector