23 November 2012

Mrs Lynne Clarke
Chiltern Primary School
Chiltern Street
Hull
HU3 3PL

Dear Mrs Clarke

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Chiltern Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 22 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on 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 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, representatives of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The inspector also met with a group of pupils, who showed him around the school. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staffing or changes in the school's status since the last inspection.

Main findings

The school has reacted positively to the findings of the last inspection report and there is a determination among staff and representatives of the governing body to improve the school. School leaders have increased their expectations of what pupils should achieve in reading, writing and mathematics and have implemented a more robust system to monitor and track the progress that pupils make.

The school's action plan for improvement has been revised and leaders have identified an appropriate range of development activities to address the issues raised through the inspection in September. The plan outlines the impact the actions are intended to have on raising pupils' attainment by the end of the Summer term 2013. However, it does not include clear milestones to enable leaders to check if pupils are on track to achieve their challenging targets, or if the quality of teaching is improving quickly enough. The plan does not yet outline clearly enough who will check each action, when they will check it, or how they will do it.

The governing body has an appropriate understanding of the school's priorities but understand that they now need to become more involved in checking the work of the school, alongside senior leaders.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- include clear milestones in the school's action plan to enable leaders to gain a realistic understanding of how well improvements are being made over time
- further strengthen the school improvement plan by ensuring that it clearly states when each action will be checked, how it will be checked and who it will be checked by
- ensure that representatives of the governing body, alongside senior leaders, become more closely involved in checking the work of the school.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. The headteacher will submit the school's revised action plan to the HMI by the end of the Autumn term 2012.

External support

Since the last inspection the local authority has provided support to improve the quality of the school's action plan. This support has been welcomed by senior leaders. The local authority is currently working with the school to strengthen the governing body by recruiting new members.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector