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9 March 2011

Mr Terry Quinton  
Headteacher  
Desmond Anderson Primary School  
Anderson Road  
Tilgate  
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West Sussex  
RH10 5EA

Dear Mr Quinton

**Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Desmond Anderson Primary School**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 8 March 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please convey my thanks to Mr Don Sibley, chair of the governing body, as well as to all the members of staff whom I met, and to your pupils for their welcome and the help they gave me.

The only significant change to the school's context since the last inspection is Mr Sibley's election in 2010 as chair of the governing body.

As a result of the inspection on 26 November 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress throughout the school. Their attainment, as indicated by their performance in national tests at the end of Key Stage 2, has been broadly average over the last three years. This represents good achievement in relation to their below-average starting points. The proportion of current Year 6 pupils who are on course to attain the higher National Curriculum Level 5 is much larger than in previous years. Pupils' good behaviour makes a positive contribution to their



learning. They work well together and are keen to learn from one another, for example in paired and group activities, as well as from their teachers.

Senior leaders monitor very closely the quality of teaching and assessment by regularly observing lessons and scrutinising pupils' work. Teachers have more opportunities to work together in order to share best practice, for example in using a range of questioning techniques. This has enabled teachers to check pupils' progress during lessons more effectively and to adapt activities accordingly. Occasionally, teachers do not ensure that all their pupils have fully understood what they are expected to learn. Teachers plan a good range of activities in lessons to ensure that they meet the needs of pupils with different abilities. For example, in a mathematics lesson about weighing and measuring, the teacher made good use of a variety of resources to enable all the pupils to gain a good understanding of the principles involved.

The school has focused successfully on improving the quality of assessment of pupils' progress. Pupils' performance is assessed frequently, using a range of methods including regular testing, so that those who are at risk of underachieving can be quickly identified and effective action taken to address any weaknesses. Teachers mark pupils' work thoroughly, regularly discuss their progress with them and give them detailed written feedback about how well they are doing. As a result, pupils understand their targets and know what they have to do to meet them. In a few instances, however, teachers' written comments are not sufficiently precise to be helpful.

Leaders have succeeded in raising expectations with regard to pupils' achievement, and in meeting increasingly challenging targets. They have benefited from the assistance provided by the local authority in the form of advice and extra resources, which have enabled pupils with additional needs to benefit from high levels of support. The strengthening of the school's capacity for sustained improvement is demonstrated by its success in addressing the weaknesses identified by the last inspection. School leaders, as well as the governing body, show a good awareness of the school's strengths, as well as of priorities for further development.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Robin Gaff  
Additional Inspector



## Annex

### **The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in November 2009:**

- Improve the progress of all pupils by:
  - closely monitoring teaching to ensure that all teaching mirrors the best practice that currently exists in the school
  - ensuring that pupils achieve above average National Curriculum levels within three years.
  
- Strengthen the effectiveness of the use of assessment by:
  - more effectively monitoring how well all teachers are using assessment to plan future learning for different ability groups
  - undertaking more frequent checking of pupils' work in English and mathematics to ensure that pupils are making the expected progress
  - setting more challenging targets for all pupils.