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Mrs Anne Grief
Long Sutton Primary School
Dick Turpin Way
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Spalding
PE12 9EP

Dear Mrs Grief

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Long Sutton Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 13 July 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. I would particularly like to thank the Chair of the Governing Body for making himself available during the day and the pupils who spoke so enthusiastically about their work.

The school has enjoyed stable staffing for the last two years, after a period of turbulence and change.

As a result of the inspection on 12 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 satisfactory progress in making improvements and satisfactory progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

The attainment of pupils at the end of Year 2 has been below average for the last two years and was below average for Year 6 pupils in 2008 and 2010. In 2011, teacher assessment shows that attainment in Year 2 has improved and is broadly in line with the national average. At Key Stage 2, test results in 2011 have improved a little, but are still likely to be below average overall. Results at higher levels, however, have improved significantly in both English and mathematics. This means that pupils overall have still only made satisfactory progress. At both key stages, writing remains weaker than other subjects. In the classroom, pupils often made at least satisfactory and often good progress. This is supported by school tracking data

that show that more pupils across the school are currently on track to make expected levels of progress to meet their targets.

Teaching has improved. All teaching is at least satisfactory and much of it is good. Planning is detailed, with activities and learning outcomes well matched to the needs of different groups of pupils. The more able are challenged, and expectations of this group are high. Support for pupils with additional learning needs is also good and teaching assistants are well deployed to meet individual and group needs.

There has been significant training for staff in literacy and numeracy development, as well as provision for gifted and talented pupils. The latter has clearly made a significant impact, but improvements in the teaching of writing have not had time to show significant impact on test results. Pupils now get good feedback from staff on how to improve their writing. Questioning is usually directed so that all pupils are challenged to answer, but pupils were not given reflection time in preparing their responses in the lessons seen during the visit. Marking is thorough and consistent approaches are used across the school. As a result, the current Year 5 cohort is considered to be on track to produce better test outcomes in 2012.

The school has planned for and delivered activities to promote pupils' wider knowledge of life beyond their own community. This has included:

- a 'World Festival Day' alongside other local schools
- curriculum opportunities identified in planning
- an RE visit to a mosque
- contact with a school in Nicaragua resulting in 'penpal' activities
- achieving the Citizen's Charter Silver Award for the school.

The local authority has provided training packages in literacy, numeracy and gifted and talented provision. These have had a positive impact within the school. The school also works productively within local networks of schools.

Although the school continues to improve its provision and has improved outcomes for more able pupils, its track record in making significant improvements in outcomes for all pupils has been slow since the last inspection. Consequently, its capacity to take a significant step forward in test results by the time pupils leave the school remains unproven.

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

David Martin
Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

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

- Raise the quality of teaching to a consistently good or better level by ensuring all teachers match activities to pupils' different learning needs, especially those of the more able.

- Extend good practice to help all pupils know how well they are achieving and what to do next to improve their work, particularly in writing.

- Improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of living in increasingly diverse communities in the United Kingdom and the wider world.