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23 November 2012

James Hilton  
Headteacher  
Hilton Primary School  
Peacroft Lane  
Hilton  
Derby  
DE65 5GH

Dear Mr Hilton

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

Following my visit to your school on 21 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, other senior leaders, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement action plan, records of the outcomes of monitoring activities and performance management were evaluated.

#### **Context**

There have been no changes to the context of the school since the last section 5 inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

#### **Main findings**

Improvement planning is not effective enough. It does not include all the areas of improvement identified at the inspection or regular short term checks so that

everyone can be sure that the school is on course to achieve its targets. Urgent action has not been taken to make sure plans start with an accurate view of what needs to be done to close gaps in pupils' learning and ensure pupils make at least good progress.

Staff are reliant on local authority support to shape their roles and decide on the actions they should take. The strategic steer given to them in school is not strong enough to focus improvement actions where they are most needed and to drive plans forward with urgency.

The system to collect and investigate information about how well pupils are doing is not effective enough. It is based on assessments of the levels at which pupils are working which are not always accurate.

The information provided to the governing body about the school's work is not good enough to support them in carrying out their role more effectively. The plan for them to find out about the work of the school first-hand is not detailed enough or being implemented with urgency. The governing body has not ensured that there is a strong strategic steer to drive school improvements effectively and urgently enough.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- establish a clear and strong strategic direction to lead the school from 'requires improvement' to 'good'
- take urgent action to ensure assessment is accurate
- make sure improvement planning focuses on all the key areas identified, and includes regular checks to make sure plans are on track
- train the governing body to carry out their roles and responsibilities

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

The outcome of the inspection has enabled the local authority to significantly increase the level of support available. The local authority has been working effectively with several members of the leadership team since the last inspection. They have supported them in carrying out a range of monitoring tasks. Plans are in place for them to support the governing body to strengthen its role.

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

Yours sincerely

Joanne Harvey  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**