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12 November 2012

Mr Paul Allen  
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School  
Devon Street  
St Helens  
Merseyside  
WA10 4HX

Dear Mr Allen

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to St Teresa's Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 9 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**

The inspector held meetings with the headteacher and the subject leader for mathematics; with three governors and with a representative of the local authority. During the visits, the inspector evaluated the school's improvement plans.

### **Context**

Since the inspection, the deputy headteacher has given notice of her intention to retire at Christmas. One governor has resigned and a new governor appointed.

### **Main findings**

Since the inspection, senior leaders have written three plans aimed at improving the school's performance: a post-inspection action plan, a raising attainment and a school improvement plan. Although the plans identify some clear actions for increasing pupils' attainment and improving the quality of leadership, some

important features are missing. For example, the progress and attainment of different groups of pupils are not clearly targeted. Similarly, it is not as clear how the success of the proposed actions will be measured and monitored on a regular basis.

Senior leaders have however begun to take effective action to make sure pupils know what they need to do to improve their work. This is beginning to take effect in mathematics and pupils' basic mathematics skills have started to improve. Senior leaders have started work to make sure teachers set work that will help each group of pupils to make progress.

Governors are highly committed to improving the school quickly. They are looking towards either having an external review of their work or taking training towards achieving the governors' quality mark. They have read and consulted Ofsted reports and surveys, and have received training which has enabled them to improve the way they question and challenge the school.

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:

- Combine improvement plans into one high-quality plan that includes a focus on improving the achievement of groups of pupils, in particular boys and pupils eligible for free school meals.
- Improve the plan so that governors and senior leaders are able to easily measure the success of actions, for a minimum, each term.

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

### **External support**

The local authority has provided effective support. It has helped to train governors in how to interpret and use data about pupils' attainment and progress and has helped the school tackle difficulties in school leadership. The local authority has identified an expert in literacy to help the school and a local leader in education.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for St Helens and as below.

Yours sincerely

Allan Torr  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**