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3 December 2012

Mrs A Dagless  
Headteacher  
Welbourne Primary School  
Goodwin Walk  
Werrington  
Peterborough  
PE4 6NR

Dear Mrs Dagless

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

Following my visit to your school on 30 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, three senior and middle leaders, five representatives of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

#### **Context**

There have been no significant changes in the school's context since the inspection. However, several staff and governors were new in post at the start of September, including the Reception teacher who was absent during the two days of the inspection.

#### **Main findings**

The school was rather disappointed with the outcomes of the last inspection. However, senior leaders recognise the need to strengthen teaching and accelerate

pupil progress, and accept that the priorities in the inspection report are broadly correct. The headteacher has revised the school improvement plan well so that it addresses the issues identified. Importantly, staff and governors have been fully involved in the process of development planning, and understand their respective roles and responsibilities.

The headteacher effectively manages the day-to-day work of the school and, for the first time, has in place a cohesive team of senior and middle leaders to help drive improvement. Since the inspection the team has already taken steps to develop:

- helpful links with local schools
- better marking and more reliable assessment
- more rigorous monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning
- the management roles of senior and middle leaders.

The governing body has responded positively to the inspection findings and has increased its level of support and challenge. The Chair of the Governing Body has effectively galvanised this work and ensures that governors are suitably well-informed. Each governor is responsible for monitoring specific aspects of the school's provision, and well-structured templates have been developed to sharpen the focus of governor visits and the quality of information presented in the headteacher's reports.

Senior leaders are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. However, following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that the headteacher develops more self-assured leadership so that her expectations are clear and are implemented quickly.

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

### **External support**

Prior to the inspection, the local authority had been providing comparatively high levels of support for the school, in recognition of the need to develop its leadership capacity. Since the inspection, this support and guidance has been suitably adapted to help address the most pressing needs, particularly in regard to improvement planning, strengthening provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage and providing guidance for governors.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Brooker  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**