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22 November 2012

Mrs J Spence  
Headteacher  
Hovingham Primary School  
Hovingham Avenue  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
SL8 3QY

Dear Mrs Spence

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Hovingham 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, senior leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. The school improvement plan and supporting documents were also evaluated. Short visits were made to lessons in Years 3 and 5, jointly with the headteacher.

#### **Context**

An assistant headteacher and two teaching staff joined the school in September 2012. However, there have been no other staff changes since the previous inspection which took place in the second week in September 2012. One governor resigned in October 2012.

## **Main findings**

The school's improvement plan is clearly focused on the key priority areas. These include improving the quality of teaching, particularly in Years 3 and 5, improving reading, developing the communication and language skills of the youngest children and the requirement that leaders check the quality of teaching more closely. In particular, the plan identifies specific actions that are needed to secure these improvements and how these actions will be checked.

Since the September inspection, school leaders and governors have closely monitored the quality of teaching in Years 3 and 5. Joint lesson observations with the headteacher confirmed the improving picture in these classes. Actions including whole-school training on phonics (the sounds that letters make), individual training for support staff in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the introduction of more targeted reading opportunities for pupils have also supported the school's improvement work. School leaders have regularly scrutinised teachers' and pupils' work and observed the quality of teaching in lessons.

The governing body has continued to robustly monitor and challenge leaders about all aspects of school improvement and the impact of their work. Senior leaders report regularly to the governors' 'joint review group' and this group, in turn, reports to the full governing body.

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:

Review the improvement plan:

- to ensure that the impact of the school actions can be checked more regularly and can be easily measured by senior leaders and governors
- to indicate clearly who is responsible and accountable for each aspect of school improvement work.

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

## **External support**

The local authority has provided effective support and challenge that has been valued by school leaders and governors. This includes representation on the 'joint review group' and specific training for assistant headteachers.

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

**PROTECT-INSPECTION**



Yours sincerely

Angela Headon  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**