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6 December 2012

Mr Mark Cole  
Headteacher  
Curzon Crescent Nursery School  
Curzon Crescent  
Willesden  
London  
NW10 9SD

Dear Mr Cole

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Curzon Crescent Nursery School**

Following my visit, with Gill Jones HMI, to your school on 5 December 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 10 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plans were evaluated. Inspectors visited classes as part of a tour of the school and scrutinised documents relating to the management of teachers' performance.

**Context**

There have been no contextual changes since the last inspection.

## **Main findings**

A new action plan has been drawn up to tackle weaknesses in teaching. This has been acted upon quickly to ensure that teachers know where they need to improve. The use of videoed lessons is proving a useful way for teachers and leaders to reflect on the teaching and learning seen. Leaders have identified strengths and weaknesses in all classes and are focusing their efforts on improving teaching across both Nursery and Reception.

Professional development is specifically focused on individual teachers' needs. The school has set out what it expects in each class and uses observations to reflect on the success each adult has in delivering these aspects. Leaders provide support and training where weaknesses are identified. Teaching assistants are being monitored closely, have targets for improvement and receive training and guidance.

This school is federated with another Nursery school and children's centre. So far this link has been useful in providing expertise and sharing policy and systems that are proven to be successful in other parts of the federation. The capacity for leaders to manage performance and bring about improvement is stretched at the present time. Currently almost all of the management of performance is conducted by the headteacher and deputy headteacher. The structure and organisation of leadership roles needs to be reviewed so the headteacher can maintain a strategic overview of the federation and reduce his operational workload.

Governors are very supportive of the school and leadership. They ask questions to challenge leaders and ensure school improvement plans are being implemented. They need to develop monitoring strategies that enable them to test out the information given to them by leaders.

Senior leaders and governors are taking 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:

- distribute leadership so that teachers and support staff have their performance is managed effectively
- ensure governors are able to gather evidence to support school self-evaluation.

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

## **External support**

The school did not buy back into the local authority support package when the 'school improvement partner' programme finished. As a result the local authority has provided light touch support to the school prior to the last inspection. The local authority was instrumental in securing the shared leadership of the federation. As a result of the inspection findings, a local authority advisor now visits once every two

weeks to support and challenge leadership in monitoring and improving teaching. The local authority and governing body recognise potential within the leadership team to move this school to being good.

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

Yours sincerely

Michael Sheridan  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**