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10 December 2012

Mr Philip Benaiges  
Headteacher  
Easingwold School  
York Road  
Easingwold  
York  
North Yorkshire  
YO61 3EF

Dear Mr Benaiges

## **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Easingwold School**

Following my visit to your school on 7 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, a representative of the local authority, a governor and a group of teachers. The school improvement plan was also evaluated.

### **Context**

There have been no significant changes to staff or the school's organisation since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

The school confirmed that the inspection findings were in line with their own assessment. A school improvement plan was already being drafted at the time of the inspection that covered many of the weaknesses identified by inspectors. Sound strategies to address the few remaining issues, highlighted by the inspection report, have been incorporated into the school improvement plan.

The governors, leaders and staff have their sights firmly fixed on Easingwold being a good school by September 2014 and they are very clear about the improvements needed on the journey. The headteacher has been quick to open up good two-way communication with staff and he is strengthening links with parents. He has made it clear to parents, students and staff that they must all work together in order to bring about the improvement.

The headteacher has taken the lead in drawing up the improvement plan but has consulted widely with school leaders, governors and staff. Consultation is almost complete; feedback is being considered and will be incorporated into the plan. Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) recommends a few minor changes which are in line with similar suggestions made by governors.

The school improvement plan is underpinned by the school's '4 Basics,' these are the key minimum expectations for teachers against which they can evaluate their practice. Professional development and training is already underway to improve the quality of teaching and to share the existing good practice. The performance management system is now linked firmly to the quality of teaching and outcomes for students.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that the school improvement plan is refined by:

- including more interim targets so that leaders and teachers can judge whether actions are effective
- placing more emphasis on the need to plan lesson activities that suit all abilities, especially the most able.

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

## **External support**

The school is receiving very good support from the local authority. A representative from the local authority sits on the governing body and local authority advisers are carrying out termly reviews to evaluate progress made against the school improvement plan. Middle leaders draw support from the local authority's subject

meetings and the headteacher benefits from both the informal and formal support available from the headteachers' network.

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

Yours sincerely

Jan Bennett

**Her Majesty's Inspector**