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4 December 2012

Helen Leone  
Headteacher  
Ranskill Primary School  
Cherry Tree Walk  
Ranskill  
Retford  
DN22 8LH

Dear Mrs Leone

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

Following my visit to your school on 3 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, other senior leaders, a member of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school action plans were evaluated. All classrooms were visited during a tour of the school and pupils spoken with.

#### **Context**

There have been no important changes since the last inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

#### **Main findings**

A set of action plans have been quickly drawn up to address the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. The plans are concise and make it

clear what is expected to improve as a result of the actions they specify. All staff have had the opportunity to contribute to the plans and understand how and when the progress made in implementing them will be evaluated.

Members of the governing body are not sufficiently clear about their role and how they should be supporting and challenging the school to improve its performance. They have met with the Chair of Governors, from a school that has been judged outstanding to hear how that governing body is organised. Some training has already been undertaken and more is planned. However, governance remains ineffective and its contribution to drawing up the new action plans was minimal.

Senior leaders have set out new expectations for teachers' planning which they regularly check. Where lesson observations identify that teaching needs improvement, this is swiftly followed with a period of coaching before another lesson observation is carried out. There is evidence that this is beginning to improve the quality of teaching in most subjects but less so in mathematics. This is because staff lack the experience and skills to teach investigative mathematics well.

The headteacher wrote to parents following the last inspection to point out that pupils' attendance was lower than it should be. Parents and pupils have responded well to the school's attempts to boost attendance, including the use of new competitions and rewards. Attendance has since risen and is currently above average.

Senior leaders 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:

- arrange for the subject leader for mathematics to attend an Ofsted seminar
- establish a partnership with a local school which is able to provide sustained coaching to staff in delivering good and outstanding investigative mathematics teaching
- make the school's online anonymised assessment data available to HMI so that progress in mathematics can be monitored
- invite the National College for School Leadership to conduct a review of the effectiveness of governance
- arrange for HMI to train members of the governing body in interpreting the school's published performance data and how it informs the school inspection framework.

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

### **External support**

The local authority worked with the school in drafting the action plans and has brokered a partnership with a local outstanding school. Teachers from this school

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have visited the partner school and the two headteachers have jointly observed lessons and checked pupils' work. Two advanced skills teachers were funded by the local authority to work with the school although the impact of this work has been patchy.

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

Yours sincerely

David Anstead  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**