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18 December 2012

Mrs Jane Powell  
Woodford Green Primary School  
Sunset Avenue  
Woodford Green  
IG8 0ST

Dear Mrs Powell

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

Following my visit to your school on 18 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, teachers, the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The HMI was given a tour of the school to look at the changes made to classrooms since the last inspection. The school development plan and subject action plans were evaluated.

#### **Context**

A new Chair and Vice Chair were appointed to the governing body after the last inspection at the end of October 2012.

## Main findings

The school accepts that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones, and has made suitable plans to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and in mathematics. School leaders have taken appropriate action to improve the rigour of monitoring children's achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Improvements are also visible in the indoor and outdoor learning areas. The work to improve mathematics is well underway. Classrooms have appropriate numeracy displays which enable pupils to have a reference guide to mathematical terminology. Teachers have been given support to improve their teaching and assessment in this subject.

The revised school development plan addresses the main areas that need improvement and is underpinned by separate action plans that are linked to improving numeracy, literacy and the Early Years Foundation Stage. To develop the role of middle leaders, subject leaders have devised their subject development plans and are leading on improving pupils' outcomes in their areas of responsibility. However, some action planning is imprecise: planned actions do not have clear milestones or success criteria against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated. Some subject leaders do not routinely assess how effective their actions are improving pupils' achievement. It is also unclear how some outcomes link to the school's development plan.

Members of the governing body show willingness to act as critical friends to the school. They have received recent training in interpreting pupil achievement data. However, although training has been identified as a need for governors, it is not clear how they propose to develop their effectiveness. The governing body has no specific action plan, its impact has not been reviewed, and monitoring by governors is not written into the school's development plans.

Senior leaders and governors have begun 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:

- Revise subject action plans so that outcomes are linked to the school's development plan and improve middle leaders' ability to monitor and assess the effectiveness of their actions.
- Identify and implement the help required to strengthen the governing body so that members can provide suitable challenge and support to school leaders especially in raising pupils' achievement.

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

## **External support**

External support from the local authority is appropriately challenging school leaders to judge how effectively they are making progress. The support for the Early Years Foundation Stage has contributed well to the improvements in this area.

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

Yours sincerely

**Samantha Morgan-Price**

Her Majesty's Inspector