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11 December 2012

Lynne Mullen  
Greenacres Junior Infant and Nursery School  
Dunkerley Street  
Oldham  
Lancashire  
OL4 2AX

Dear Ms Mullen

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit to Greenacres Junior Infant and Nursery School on 11 December 2012**

Following my visit to your school on 11 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 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 group of Year 6 pupils. Her Majesty's Inspector toured the school and held a telephone conversation with the school's improvement officer. The school improvement plan was evaluated; records of the monitoring of the quality of teaching and minutes of the Governing Body meetings were scrutinised.

### **Context**

There have been some changes to the staffing profile since the time of the inspection. Three teachers have resigned their posts and will leave at the end of the autumn term. The school has appointed two new members of staff to join the team in January 2013; one to take Year 5 and the other to take Reception. The teacher from Reception will move into the Year 1 class. From January 2013 the Nursery teacher will lead the Early Years Foundation Stage. One member of the Governing

Body has resigned resulting in two vacancies. The school is in the process of canvassing for these vacancies.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders, governors and staff have responded well to the judgement of the section 5 inspection. The headteacher is uncompromising in her determination to improve the performance of the school to good. The school improvement plan has been suitably revised with a focus on tackling the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan includes appropriate actions, timescales and intentions. Monitoring and evaluation strategies are included but it is not always clear who will be carrying out the activities and how the evaluation will be used to identify the next steps necessary for the school to make further progress.

Subject leaders have benefited from the modelling and coaching approach of senior leaders in developing monitoring and evaluation techniques. They have used agreed criteria to sample pupils' work and are becoming more self-reflective of their own practice. The headteacher has plans to further this coaching model in order to help them to report to governors on the impact their actions are having on raising pupils' achievement. New arrangements for performance management ensure all teachers now have individual targets that directly relate to accelerating pupils' progress.

Members of the governing body have given vital support during a period of turmoil. The Chair of Governors has a clear vision on how governance can be improved. However, there is still some work to be done in improving the skills and knowledge of all members of the governing body to enable them to be fully involved in evaluating the work of the school.

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:

- clarify who will monitor planned action and how this will be used to determine further action
- ensure the school receives an external review of governance from the NCSL so that members develop the skills and knowledge to hold the school to account as quickly as possible.

## **External support**

The local authority officer has worked with senior leaders and the governors to resolve some staffing and governor turbulence. This support has been very well received. The local authority has also commissioned support from a National Leader of Education from a local school to support the school further from January 2013.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Eileen Mulgrew  
Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese – for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.