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19 December 2012

Nicola Shadbolt  
Headteacher  
Aveley Primary School  
Stifford Road  
Aveley  
South Ockendon  
RM15 4AA

Dear Miss Shadbolt

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Aveley 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 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, members of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. HMI discussed the results of the 2012 teacher assessments and national tests with the headteacher, reviewed the school's monitoring and evaluation of teaching, and considered the new procedures for monitoring student progress. Checks were made on the school's systems for monitoring the performance of staff. HMI visited every classroom with the headteacher and she noted the variations in the style of display staff use to guide the pupils' learning.

### **Context**

Following the recent inspection the local authority has helped the school establish a link with a local leader of education who leads a high performing school. The local authority is in the process of establishing a progress board to monitor school

improvement and intends to bring two experienced governors on to the governing body.

## **Main findings**

The school development plan and priorities are appropriately linked to the inspection report. Standards and achievement have improved in the last two years but still do not compare favourably with the national average. The 2013 targets set by the school for reading, writing and mathematics are not challenging.

HMI spent some time reading the various types of documentation used by the school related to the monitoring of teaching. Although clear judgements are made regarding the quality of teaching there is insufficient written information to provide clear guidance to staff on how to improve. The documentation provided lacked detail on pupil progress and therefore could not be compared with the school's robust class-based assessment data. HMI asked the headteacher to arrange for the detailed lesson notes to be included in all the evaluations provided to governors so they can understand the lesson grade awarded.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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:

- link the monitoring of teaching with the progress made by pupils,
- bring the monitoring of teaching in line with current Ofsted inspection practice.

HMI will lead senior staff in a half day joint-observation exercise in the spring term 2013.

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

## **External support**

The work with a local high performing school is at a very early stage and the local authority progress board has yet to meet. HMI provided the school with the names of two schools that have been praised at their recent inspection for successfully addressing some of the key issues faced by Aveley Primary School. The governing body has expressed its openness to work with the local authority progress board

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

Yours sincerely

David Jones  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**