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Barbara Capper  
Headteacher  
Westcliff School  
First Avenue  
Dawlish  
Devon  
EX7 9RA

13 December 2012

Dear Mrs Capper

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

Following my visit to your school on 12 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, assistant headteacher and subject leaders for English. The inspector also met with the Vice Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and governors' strategic plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the inspection, the responsibilities for the subject leadership of English have been reassigned but there have been no other staff changes. There are currently two vacancies that the governing body are seeking to fill.

### **Main findings**

The headteacher is taking decisive action to review and strengthen the quality of teaching and recognises the need to swiftly address under-performance should it

occur. The school development plan has been suitably revised. There is a clear emphasis on addressing the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. It includes appropriate actions and timescales in relation to how the school will improve the quality of teaching in literacy and numeracy. However, targets set are not specific enough in defining the intended impact that actions being taken will have in improving pupils' standards and progress.

The governing body keeps abreast of improvement work through its link governor visits to school and evaluations made by a specific monitoring committee. Governors are providing leaders with appropriate support and challenge. However, they are not checking closely enough how well leaders set and review targets for teachers and how well extra monies (the Pupil Premium) are used to improve pupils' achievement. Subject leaders are being supported in how to provide governors with reports that focus more directly on the impact actions taken are having on pupils' achievement.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that further action is taken to:

- adjust the action plan to include precise numerical targets that help governors and leaders judge whether actions have been successful in raising pupils' attainment
- provide support for middle leaders and governors on how to evaluate the impact of the school's action.

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

### **External support**

The local authority advisor and the headteacher have worked closely to co-ordinate a range of support for leaders and governors. This is helping the school as it addresses the areas for improvement. The local authority has linked the school with a local leader of education in order to help the school continue improving at a more rapid rate. External consultants are also working with phase leaders to help them develop their skills of coaching colleagues and giving feedback on their teaching. There are plans in places for the local authority to provide training for the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

David Townsend

**Her Majesty's Inspector**