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18 December 2012

Mrs Delyse Turrell  
Headteacher  
Welholme Primary School  
Welholme Road  
Grimsby  
Lincolnshire  
DN32 9JD

Dear Mrs Turrell

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

Following my visit to your school on 17 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. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, middle leaders, and the Governing Body, and a telephone discussion was held with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and action plans were evaluated and a tour of the school was undertaken, visiting almost all classrooms briefly.

#### **Context**

There have been no significant changes in the context of the school since the recent section 5 inspection, although the school is having to make arrangements to deal with a number of staffing requirements.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Direct action has been taken quickly to identify the where the quality of teaching needs to improve most, including through effective analyses of data about the pupils' progress, and to put in place a strategy for bringing about the improvements. Teachers with management responsibilities are responding with some enthusiasm to the areas of improvement set out by the recent inspection and are starting to identify for themselves where they can do more to bring about improvements. There is evidence of a heightened level of activity and a faster pace of development. Governors are alert to the improvements needed at the school and describe the staff as having 'cracked on' with developments since the inspection. The governing body has a growing sense of the need to challenge the school about its work and of how to do it. The school's revised action plan brings a sharper focus on the necessary improvements and a clearer sense of priorities. It indicates clearly when the activities will take place, but does not extend beyond the current academic year. The plan does not set out a clear strategy for monitoring and evaluating progress at the school.

Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that he visits the school again to look at approaches to monitoring and evaluation and also subsequently look at evidence of the impact of leaders and managers on the quality of teaching. Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

## **External support**

The school has taken the initiative in identifying sources of external support. It has ensured that the support is targeted at the key areas of need. Productive partnerships have been the school and the people providing the support and the members of staff involved have described some of the support as 'exceptionally good'. There appears to be little support currently for the school's efforts to recruit staff, which is potentially a barrier to the school's progress.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

**Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body
- Local authority
- The lead inspector.