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18 December 2012

Mrs Ros Munro  
Executive Headteacher  
Clarendon Road Community Primary School  
Clarendon Road  
Eccles  
Manchester  
M30 9BJ

Dear Mrs Munro

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Clarendon Road Community Primary School on 18 December 2012**

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 confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in September 2012.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the executive headteacher and senior leaders, representatives of the governing body and representatives from the local authority. In addition, the inspector held a telephone conversation with the assistant director of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

#### **Context**

Since the inspection the headteacher has resigned and an executive headteacher and a deputy headteacher have been appointed on an interim basis. Two teachers have left the school and four more are leaving the school at Christmas. Two teachers are currently on long-term absence. The school has appointed two new teachers who are due to start during the spring term.

#### **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

Senior leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of what needs to improve and how this will be achieved. However, they acknowledge that criteria within the

improvement plan to measure the success of their actions could be clearer to facilitate accountability. The leadership team will also be increased next term with the appointment of another teacher with leadership responsibility.

The arrangements for governance of the school are unclear. Since the inspection, governors have set up a school effectiveness committee which has met weekly with the executive headteacher. Governors have drafted their own action plan for school improvement, however, this is in addition to the school's own action plan and clarity about which plan is being followed is lacking. There is uncertainty about future arrangements for the governance of the school. Governors and the local authority have discussed the appointment of an interim executive board to take over the function of the governing body. However, at the time of the inspection there was no shared understanding of the governance arrangements for the school. Consequently, clear systems of accountability and shared understanding regarding the strategic direction of the school are not in place. All parties acknowledge that this situation is unhelpful and needs resolving urgently.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose. However, during the evaluation of the improvement plan the following points were discussed which leaders agreed would be helpful in making the plan clearer:

- sharpen the criteria against which success can be measured so that they more easily relate to an impact on pupils' achievement or the quality of teaching
- include plans detailing the improvements required in school governance once the future arrangements are clarified.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

This monitoring inspection letter will be published on the Ofsted website. I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Strategic Director for Children's Services for Salford.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Guy  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**