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14 January 2013

Mr T Hunter-Whitehouse  
Headteacher  
Rush Green Junior School  
Dagenham Road  
Rush Green  
Romford  
Essex  
RM7 0RL

Dear Mr Hunter-Whitehouse

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Rush Green Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 14 January 2013, 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 November 2012. 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, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated along with staff appraisal documents and an evaluation of the quality of teaching. HMI visited all classrooms jointly with the headteacher.

#### **Context**

The governing body is formally consulting on an amalgamation with Rush Green Infant School with which it shares the site. The transitional governing body is in the process of appointing a substantive headteacher for the amalgamated primary school.

## **Main findings**

The senior leadership team has taken rapid action to improve the quality of teaching through effective professional development for all staff. This has included a sharper focus on how pupils learn. Teachers are using a wider range of strategies to make learning more interesting and enjoyable. Pupils are given more frequent opportunities to discuss their ideas and work collaboratively. Pupils say they enjoy this approach because they get the chance to share their ideas and see what others think. There is more consistent use of interactive whiteboards to enliven teaching and engage pupils' interest. Learning objectives are routinely shared, displayed and discussed so that pupils know what they are expected to learn and how. There is now a closer link between the quality of teaching, pupils' achievement and performance management for teachers. Reading corners are being developed in all year groups, and new book-cases and a range of reading books have been purchased and brought into use.

The school development plan has been completed. It now includes a clear calendar of actions. Early targets, such as professional development to improve teaching in mathematics have been met, but it is too early to see the impact of improved teaching on pupils' achievement. While most actions are linked to measurable outcomes, some need to be clearer so that governors can more easily hold the school to account.

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:

- ensure that the school development plan has a sharper focus on measurable outcomes, and that progress against these is formally monitored by the governing body.

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

## **External support**

The local authority has provided training for the governing body on data analysis. The school improvement officer has helped in monitoring the school development plan and is brokering joint working with another school to improve the use of data to inform teachers' planning and raise achievement.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Yours sincerely  
Robert Lovett

**Her Majesty's Inspector**