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Mrs Kate Hodson
Headteacher
Coningsby St Michael's Church of England Primary School
School Lane
Coningsby
Lincoln
LN4 4SJ

Dear Mrs Hodson

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Coningsby St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 25 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, the acting deputy headteacher, the governing body, and an educational advisor working on behalf of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the last inspection a temporary teacher has left the school. Two new temporary teachers have been appointed. The school has begun to work in a supportive partnership arrangement with five other local schools.

Main findings

School leaders are demonstrating a strong determination to improve the school. The headteacher, well supported by the acting deputy headteacher, has revised and

improved the school's improvement plan. The plan addresses all issues raised by inspectors at the time of the last inspection. However, it does not include clear milestones to enable leaders to check if pupils are on track to achieve their challenging targets.

Leaders are well organised and have made good headway in taking actions to improve the school in a short period of time. For example, the outdoor play area for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage has been completely redeveloped and has become a stimulating and exciting place in which children can play and learn. Leaders have also introduced a new and more varied range of topics for pupils to learn about across the school, and have clarified which teachers will take charge of different subjects. However, it is too early to gauge the impact of these actions on pupils' improved outcomes.

The governing body has received appropriate training and is developing an increasingly strong and accurate understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. However, governors recognise that they do not work sufficiently closely with senior leaders to check the work of the school.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective 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:

- include clear and easily measurable milestones in the school's action plan to enable leaders to gain a more accurate understanding of how well pupils' progress is improving in reading, writing and mathematics
- further strengthen the school improvement plan by ensuring that it clearly states the activities to be monitored by the governing body, which governors will be involved, and when the work will take place.
- submit the school's revised improvement plan to HMI by the end of February 2013.

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

External support

Since the last inspection an educational adviser, working on behalf of the local authority, has provided support to develop the skills of the governing body, including training to develop governors' understanding of data about pupils' performance. Support has also been provided to the school's leaders in developing the school's improvement plan following the last inspection. All senior leaders report that the external support has been well received.

The school's partnership work with other local schools is at an early stage of development. This means that it is too early to measure the impact this work is

having on addressing the issues raised at the last inspection and improving pupils' achievement.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector