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22 January 2013

Mrs Catherine Logan  
Headteacher  
Winterton Junior School  
West Street  
Winterton  
Scunthorpe  
Lincolnshire  
DN15 9QG

Dear Mrs Logan

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

Following my visit to your school on 21 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, deputy headteacher, literacy leader, a school improvement officer from the local authority, the Chair of the Governing Body and two other governors. The school improvement plan and subject action plans were evaluated and documentation about performance management was discussed.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection the deputy headteacher has left the school to take up a headship.

## **Main findings**

The headteacher and other senior leaders are well aware that in order to raise achievement the quality of teaching needs to improve. This was confirmed by a recent review of teaching and learning carried out by officers of the local authority and the headteacher. This has been the case for too long and has impacted adversely on pupils' progress. The headteacher and the governing body realise that this cannot continue unchallenged any longer. Leaders and governors have begun to take action to improve teaching through general professional development covering aspects such as assessment, marking and pupil target setting. However, improving the quality of teaching and learning does not appear as a stand-alone priority in the school's development plan. As a result, current strategies designed to tackle ineffective teaching lack rigour and do not hold individual teachers sufficiently to account. There is no link, for example, between improving teachers' skills and the performance management process. As a consequence, the monitoring of teaching by the senior leadership team lacks purpose and does not help to drive improvement as well as it should. Staff concerned with the development of English and mathematics throughout the school have only been in place for a short while. They are keen to play a full part in the school improvement process but require further guidance in order to do so.

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:

- amend the school development plan so that improving the quality of teaching is the priority and that strategies to bring it about are rigorous and challenging
- include specific targets relating to improving the quality of teaching as part of teachers' performance management
- provide support and guidance to the subject leaders of English and mathematics so that they are able to make a significant contribution to raising achievement.

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

## **External support**

The local authority has provided valuable support to the headteacher both before and after the previous inspection. The school improvement officer has worked with the head teacher to develop classroom observation skills and support the development planning process. Additional support for subject leaders was discussed with a representative of the local authority during the visit.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Keeler  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**