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David Oldham  
Mulbarton Junior School  
The Common  
Mulbarton  
Norwich  
NR14 8JG

Dear Mr Oldham

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

Following my visit to your school on 04 February 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 15 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, representatives of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and associated documentation was scrutinised. HMI visited a sample of classes to evaluate learning

#### **Context**

Since the last inspection an additional teacher has been appointed to reinforce the teaching of mathematics and intervention for those pupils who are reluctant writers. A new head of mathematics has been appointed.

#### **Main findings**

Since the last inspection the headteacher has moved quickly to address issues identified as needing improvement. Many of these were identified prior to the inspection and consequently many of the changes made are starting to have an impact.

The use of assessment is now systematic and reliable. This is giving the school an increasingly accurate view of how well pupils are doing. Pupils are making better progress. At Key Stage 2 these improvements are most marked in English where the proportion reaching expected levels has increased to above national average. Mathematics has improved with an accelerating trend, but has not yet reached national average. Standards of writing have improved markedly. Differences between boys' and girls' progress are minimal.



School improvement and action plans are detailed and accurately reflect priority areas. Targets are set, and they are appropriately challenging but achievable. Governors have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They challenge the headteacher well. However the challenges are not always recorded. This means that it is difficult to check actions and progress towards targets.

Much professional development work has been undertaken, for example in lesson planning, marking, and literacy and numeracy. The lesson observation system is sufficiently critical and has been useful in identifying areas for improvement. However it does not always pay sufficient attention to the learning taking place in class. In some lessons teaching is pitched at too low a level.

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 recommend that further action is taken to:

- Ensure that governors' challenges and their monitoring of progress towards targets are appropriately documented.
- Devise a lesson observation system that places more emphasis on the accurate evaluation of pupils' learning in class.
- Ensure that all pupils are stimulated to learn at the highest level at which they are able.

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

### **External support**

The school has drawn on the local authority to support mathematics, literacy, and governance.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Seath  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**