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2 February 2013

Mrs L Roberts  
Headteacher  
Springwood Primary School  
Barton Road  
Swinton  
Manchester  
M27 5LP

Dear Mrs Roberts

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Springwood Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 1 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 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 headteachers, seven members of the Governing Body, the National Leader in Education supporting the school and a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated along with other documents, including a current staffing plan.

**Context**

The review of staff mentioned in the November 2012 report is imminent.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The need for improvement was identified before the inspection and the school has been working for some time with an outstanding special school in Oldham, with teaching school status, led by a National Leader in Education. The collaboration between the schools is believed to be leading to significant gains in the quality of teaching and learning. The morale and confidence of teachers, especially those in positions of responsibility, is said to be improving. The school has carried out an exercise to establish a common vision for the future, one that encompasses an agreed set of values. Together with the local authority, planning is at an advanced stage for a review of the staffing structure and of the organisation of the school. Hard decisions about staffing levels are anticipated as the school is approaching an unsustainable financial position. The Governing Body is stepping up to the mark. It has recruited new governors and now has a broader range of representation. It is receiving more information from senior leaders and becoming more involved visiting classrooms. Individual governors are taking greater responsibility for different aspects of the school's work.

Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that:

- the Governing Body, with the support of the local authority, monitors closely the impact of the imminent staffing review, providing challenge and support to the school in order to sustain the recent gains in teaching and learning
- the collaborative action plan is revised to provide sharper criteria to measure the success of proposed actions and much clearer arrangements for the independent evaluation of progress.

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

## **External support**

The local authority is providing reasonable support for the school. It played a crucial part in identifying weaknesses before the inspection and continues to support the school in the planning and implementation of the staffing review.

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

Yours sincerely

Brian Padgett  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**