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Friday 8 February 2013

Mr Nicholas D'Agorne  
Headteacher  
North Tawton Community Primary School  
Exeter Street  
North Tawton  
Devon  
EX20 2HB

Dear Mr. D'Agorne

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to North Tawton Community Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on Thursday 7 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 December 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, representatives of the governing body, subject leaders for English and mathematics and a representative of the local authority. The school development and subject action plans were evaluated. HMI looked at documents related to subject improvement and discussed the systems for reviewing the quality of teaching and tracking pupils' attainment and progress.

#### **Context**

During this academic year, the governing body has significantly re-organised its structure and roles held by individual governors.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders have revised the development plan to address the areas for improvement identified at the recent inspection. Teachers have introduced new approaches to how they set learning targets and give pupils advice on how to improve their work. They have worked together to build a more accurate picture of each pupil's learning needs. The school has identified who is in need of extra help, including those eligible for the pupil premium, and put in place additional small group teaching. The checks made by the school indicate that these approaches are having a positive effect in helping pupils move forward in their learning.

The staff are being helped to develop their teaching in a number of ways; for example, by seeing colleagues in other schools teach and trying out the approaches used in their own classrooms. The improvement plan shows how leaders check the quality of teaching. It does not clarify how the school will use its findings from these checks to provide further support for staff; in particular, how best to ensure lessons are challenging for all pupils and help them reach higher standards in reading, writing and mathematics.

The governing body is committed to supporting the school in its drive to raise its performance to good. It has moved quickly to identify and address its own training needs. The newly formed action planning committee is active and diligent in checking on how well new approaches to teaching are working and in looking at reports on pupils' progress. Governors recognise the need to bring all the evidence together each term and check on overall progress towards the school's improvement goals.

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 recommends that further action is taken to:

- refine action plans to indicate how the school will use its findings from visits to lessons to secure consistently good teaching
- set challenging targets within the plan for raising pupils' standards
- work with the local authority in order to further strengthen the role of the governing body.

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

## **External support**

The local authority continues to provide effective support for senior leaders with their plans for improving teaching and raising achievement. Its subject advisers for English have provided helpful advice to teachers and the governing body are being closely supported as they develop their role in holding the school to account for its performance.

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

Yours sincerely

David Townsend  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**