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14 February 2013

Emma Woollon  
Headteacher  
Bedmond Village Primary and Nursery School  
Meadow Way  
Bedmond  
Abbots Langley  
WD5 0RD

Dear Mrs Woollon

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Bedmond Village Primary and Nursery School**

Following my visit to your school on 14 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, other senior leaders, three members of the governing body, including the Chair, a representative of the local authority and a group of pupils from Year 6. A range of documentation was reviewed, including the outcomes of monitoring activities and the most recent governing body minutes. The school's action plan was evaluated.

**Context**

A teacher left at the end of the autumn term 2012. There have been no other significant changes since the last inspection.

## **Main findings**

The school has responded positively to the findings of the last inspection. Staff and representatives of the governing body are united in demonstrating a strong determination to continue to improve the school. Leaders, including governors have made suitable plans to strengthen the priorities for improvement, most of which were identified before the inspection. The action plan addresses all of the areas of improvement identified in the last inspection. There are suitable, measurable success criteria to help check how well the key actions are being carried out to help raise achievement and improve the quality of teaching. However, the plan does not refer to the proportion of pupils who are capable of making better than expected progress. Also, there is insufficient clarity about how the governing body will evaluate the outcomes of their training, particularly in regard to understanding pupils' performance data.

Senior leaders have responded with sufficient urgency and have taken immediate action to:

- raise teachers' expectations about pupils' learning through coaching and feedback to individual teachers on lessons observed
- help subject leaders and the leader for disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs to develop leadership skills
- bring more rigour to the tracking of pupils' progress
- involve parents and carers more in supporting their child or children's learning, especially in their writing work
- take up training opportunities for governors to help them hold the school to account for its performance more effectively.

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 the school action plan provides more details about the proportion of pupils capable of making better than expected progress
- state clearly in the action plan how the governing body will evaluate the impact of training done by governors.

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

## **External support**

The school draws on support arranged by the local authority. External consultants provide support to senior leaders to help build capacity in this school which is smaller than most other primary schools. Support is also focusing on classroom practice, such as the use of questioning to promote better learning, which is practical and valued by the school.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Education for Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely

Dilip Kadodwala  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**