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4 March 2013

Mrs J Fearnley  
Consultant Headteacher  
Greasbrough Primary School  
Munsbrough Rise  
Rotherham  
S61 4RB

Dear Mrs Fearnley

### **Special measures: monitoring inspection of Greasbrough Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 1 March 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

This visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in November 2012.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the consultant headteacher, other school leaders, a representative from the local authority and three members of the governing body. The local authority's statement of action and school improvement plans were evaluated. The inspector also briefly visited every class in the school.

### **Context**

The headteacher and the deputy headteacher have been absent due to illness since the start of January 2013 and November 2012 respectively. An interim consultant headteacher was engaged on 21 January 2013 to support the leadership team. In the intervening period, the assistant headteacher assumed leadership of the school with support from local authority consultants. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCO), who recently returned to work after a lengthy sickness absence, has relinquished her role and a new SENCO has been appointed. The school has also employed a supply teacher to cover the deputy headteacher's class in his absence. Two governors have resigned and the local authority has used its powers of intervention to elect an additional governor, who has subsequently been appointed vice-chair of the governing body.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

The consultant headteacher has added direction and impetus to the school's efforts to improve. Several reviews of existing practices have been completed and a range of initiatives, refined policies and strategic actions initiated to improve teaching, raise achievement and strengthen leadership. Staff are observing and working alongside strong practitioners. Literacy and numeracy strategies have been modified; work has been undertaken to improve the climate for learning and raise staff expectations of pupils' capabilities. Leadership roles have been remodelled. Newsletters, a parent group and an updated website are helping the school to communicate better with parents. Procedures for monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the school's work have been tightened and a greater accountability structure now exists. However, there remains some uncertainty around the school's leadership in the longer term.

Governors accept the shortcomings levelled against them in the Ofsted report and with the support of school leaders and the local authority, they have taken steps to sharpen their practice. The election of a very experienced additional governor has enhanced their ability to challenge strategically and evaluate more rigorously the progress the school is making in tackling its key issues. This governor models good practice, has led training and is raising awareness of governors' specific roles. As a result, more robust procedures now exist to hold leaders to account for the school's improvement and governors are better equipped to discharge their duties. The local authority has acted decisively to ensure sufficiently well-qualified and experienced staff are leading the school. The local authority is also supporting the school's new SENCO and providing teaching and learning consultants. The lead officer for schools of concern is also attached to the school in a monitoring and evaluation role.

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's recently redrafted improvement plan is fit for purpose. However, the earlier plan was not. It lacked the necessary detail and coherence between planned actions and how these would address the areas for improvement.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection. This does not apply to teachers currently employed by the school as trainees.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

John Young  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**