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27 March 2013

Miss Sarah Nock  
Headteacher  
Burnley Springfield Community Primary School  
Oxford Road  
Burnley  
Lancashire  
BB11 3HP

Dear Miss Nock

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Burnley Springfield Community Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 26 March 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. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with you and the deputy headteacher; two representatives from the local authority and seven members of the governing body. I evaluated the school improvement plan and looked at a range of documents.

#### **Context**

A new deputy headteacher has been appointed since the inspection, after the promotion of the existing deputy to another school. She will begin after Easter. A teacher is leaving at the end of the spring term. There are a number of temporary teachers on short-term contracts. Interviews are due to be held in April to appoint permanent teachers ready for the start of the autumn term.

#### **Main findings**

With support from the local authority, senior leaders have devised a detailed, good quality plan for improvement. The plan prioritises the issues raised at the inspection and identifies the appropriate actions staff need to take and clear ways to measure whether the actions

have been successful. The governing body has contributed to the plan and has questioned the quality of the actions to make sure they are the right actions to improve the school quickly.

Since the inspection there has been a focus on establishing new systems to feed back to pupils and to mark their work. The systems rightly differ for each year group and have helped pupils get a better understanding of exactly what they need to do to improve. Teachers are working on developing teaching policy which is being based on what works for pupils in this area rather than on following published schemes of work. The school's records show that these improvements are beginning to improve pupils' progress and the quality of teaching.

The plans to improve the outdoor area and the teaching of speaking and listening in Reception are in place. The school's data show that a larger proportion of children at the end of Reception are on course to meet national expectations for five-year olds. Staff have made links with a local college to develop the garden area.

Senior leaders have started to follow up their observations of teaching and their checks on the quality what the school does. In a staff meeting for example, teachers were shown the result of the checks on pupils' work and marking. They worked together and learned from each other with a view to improving their marking further. Teachers are learning from each other to improve their teaching. They work in threes in 'lesson study' to teach alongside other teachers to help each other to improve.

Members of the governing body are experienced, knowledgeable and have accessed courses and training to improve the challenge they provide to senior leaders. They have an improved knowledge of the quality of teaching and of pupils' standards. They have high expectations and share senior leaders' vision and direction for the school. They have not sat back and waited; they have made a quick start to improvement and are keen to become a good school as soon as possible. They ask challenging questions to make sure senior leaders and teachers are on the right course for improvement.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

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

### **External support**

Senior leaders and governors have drawn upon the expertise of the local authority which has given human resource advice, financial support and advice in how to make the school better. A teaching and learning consultant is working with the school as are senior advisors. As a result there is a clear steer and the school has started to make progress towards becoming a good school.

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

Yours sincerely

Allan Torr

**Her Majesty's Inspector**