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Fiona Johnson  
Headteacher  
Hogarth Primary and Nursery School  
Porchester Road  
Nottingham  
NG3 6JG

Dear Ms Johnson

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

Following my visit to your school on 25 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 December 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, six members of the governing body including the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and the headteacher of another local primary school who is currently supporting the school. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A tour of the school was undertaken with the headteacher and pupils' work in books was looked at. The process for managing the performance of staff was discussed.

#### **Context**

Since the last inspection, the headteacher and Year 3 class teacher, who is also the special educational needs coordinator, returned to the school in January 2013 following periods of long term absence.

## **Main findings**

The school improvement plan has been updated to urgently address the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. Work has been appropriately prioritised and it is clear how it will be monitored and by whom. The school has increased opportunities for writing across all subjects, but is not making the most of wider opportunities for pupils to use and apply their mathematical knowledge in order to raise attainment in mathematics to the national average. The school marking policy does not provide adequate guidance for staff on the marking of pupils' work. Consequently, marking is not helping pupils to improve sufficiently well.

School leaders are increasing their effectiveness, providing support to staff and checking the impact of teaching on pupils' learning. Staff are making better use of assessment data and there is a more consistent approach to lesson planning developing across the school. However some teachers do not plan activities that are hard enough for all pupils. Opportunities are being provided for staff to work with colleagues in other good and outstanding schools, so that current practice can be improved. School leaders have set performance targets for teaching staff but not for support staff. The targets are not aligned well enough to the school improvement plan nor do they make staff sufficiently accountable for the achievement and progress of all of the pupils in their class.

Joint assessments of pupils' achievement and progress with staff from another school confirm the increasing accuracy of school data. Governors have undertaken training to help them to fulfil their role in comparing the progress of pupils to those seen nationally.

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:

- set targets for all staff which are ambitious and based on school targets for the progress and achievement of all pupils, including those for whom the school receives additional funding
- ensure subject and senior leaders check lesson planning and teaching more closely to ensure that activities are well planned, promote sufficient learning and provide adequate levels of challenge for the range of pupils in each class
- ensure every teacher is marking pupils' work consistently well
- schedule another visit to the school by HMI to monitor progress.

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

## **External support**

The school is drawing effectively on a range of external support. Staff and governors are taking up development opportunities provided through the local authority and

other specially commissioned advisers. The local authority has helped to facilitate the school's links with other local schools. It has provided useful support in reviewing the school's post Ofsted action plan, and some additional funding to tackle the issues of underperformance of particular year groups and for improving pupils' reading. This has made a significant impact on the reading ages of pupils who took part in the initiative.

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

Yours sincerely

Jane Melbourne

**Her Majesty's Inspector**