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Mrs Kirsten Luff  
Headteacher  
Dryclough Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School  
Dryclough Road  
Crosland Moor  
Huddersfield  
West Yorkshire  
HD4 5HX

Dear Mrs Luff

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit to Dryclough Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School, Kirklees**

Following my visit to your school on 2 May 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 March 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

I held meetings with the headteacher and five senior leaders and with four middle leaders. I also met with the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. During my visit I evaluated the school's improvement plans, looked at documents relating to the work of the school and was taken on a tour of the school.

**Context**

Since the inspection, there have been no changes in staffing. One member of the governing body has resigned.

**Main findings**

The headteacher, governors and the local authority all agree the priorities for improvement, and the judgements reached by the inspection team, were the correct ones. Since the inspection senior leaders have reviewed the school's development plan. Although this plan contains a suitable outline of the actions leaders intend to take, there is too little indication of what successful outcomes will look like and how progress will be measured.

Consequently, leaders and governors are not able to measure precisely the impact of the current plan or effectively hold staff to account. There is some expert knowledge within the governing body. However, the chair recognises training is needed to strengthen all governors' understanding, and use, of the development plan to ensure leaders are held to greater account and the school makes more rapid progress towards being 'good'.

The school has an honest view of the quality of teaching and has tightened support plans for those teachers who are not yet 'good'. However, leaders agree the pace of progress on this area for improvement needs to be more rapid if the school is to get to 'good' at its next inspection.

Middle leaders agree with senior leaders that they need to be clearer about the successful outcomes they are looking for when they monitor and check the work of the school. While leaders can point to many actions that have taken place since the inspection, they accept they have little evidence of their impact and that monitoring activity has not yet focused on checking activities are making the needed difference.

The leader responsible for attendance has worked with the local authority officer to analyse attendance data. Clear actions have been identified but as yet no measures of the impact on pupils' attendance have been made.

Leaders and governors are beginning to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection, however, plans are not yet sharply focused on accelerating progress and checking for improvement. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- review the school's action plans and include measurable milestones and criteria which are clearly linked to actions.
- ensure that governors receive training to enable them to clearly measure the progress of improvements each term.
- ensure that all leaders focus on impact of actions when monitoring and checking the work of the school.
- address the weakest teaching and secure rapid progress in addressing the teaching which is not yet good.

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

### **External support**

The local authority has an accurate view of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. It has brokered a variety of support for leaders including a consultants and a local leader of education however this has yet to lead to any measurable impact on the quality of teaching or the progress of pupils.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Guy  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**