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6 May 2013

Carol Moore  
Headteacher  
Firs Estate Primary School  
Raven Street  
Derby  
DE22 3WA

Dear Mrs Moore

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Firs Estate Primary School, Derby local authority.**

Following my visit to your school on 3 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 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit I met with you, the deputy headteacher, the Chair and members of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. I evaluated the school improvement plan and a range of school documentation. This included the school self-evaluation form, data relating to pupils' attainment and progress and the analysis of that data as well as minutes of recent governing body meetings. You took me on a tour of the school and we made brief visits to all classes.

**Context**

Since the previous inspection in December 2012, there have been no significant changes in school leadership or staffing. However, the school has enrolled around 30 additional pupils mid-year, mainly from overseas.

## **Main findings**

Leaders and managers, including governors, and staff have accepted the findings from the inspection in January. They understand that there are two important things to accomplish: ensuring that teaching in all lessons is good or better, and ensuring that all pupils make good progress in every lesson. You and your deputy headteacher have a strong sense of purpose and all staff are enthusiastic and committed to making 'Firs Estate' a good school'.

Following the inspection, an action plan was promptly compiled to supplement the school development plan in order to achieve these two main aims. The priorities in this plan lacked clear targets with milestones. These targets were added during the monitoring visit, including numerical targets for teaching and learning, and for pupils' progress. This will enable you and your governors to monitor progress more effectively.

The essential actions required for improvement are already underway. These include:

- training to improve the quality of teaching
- the introduction of a new system for tracking pupils' progress that gives a clear overview of progress across the school
- the appointment of two new leaders to take responsibility for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and add capacity to the leadership team.

Senior leaders and the governing body are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- publish the revised targets in the action plan so that expectations are clear to all staff and governors
- maintain a tight focus on evaluating learning in lessons and pupils' progress over time
- gain an objective view of the extent to which the teaching and pupils' progress have improved on a termly basis from the local authority's senior school improvement officer.

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

## **External support**

The local authority has given much useful support and guidance since the recent inspection. There is a programme to provide on-going support to the school to complete the required actions. The senior school improvement officer has worked with senior leaders and governors at the school to help them understand fully the recent inspection report and to identify the actions needed. She is also leading

governor training to enable governors to become effective in carrying out their roles. The local authority is also supplying funding for the training and coaching of teachers, and has arranged for good practice visits to other good schools.

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

Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**