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20 May 2013

Jayne Price  
Head of School  
Parkfield Primary School  
Dimmock Street  
Parkfield  
Wolverhampton  
WV4 6HB

Dear Ms Price

**Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Parkfield Primary School, Wolverhampton.**

Following my visit to your school on 17 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 this visit, I held meetings with you and the deputy headteacher, seven members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school's improvement plan was evaluated. Five parts of lessons were observed across the school.

**Context**

One teacher left the school at the end of the spring term. The school has reorganised and reduced the size of the governing body. The new governing body is about to have its first meeting later this term. Governors are about to arrange an external review of governance.

## **Main findings**

Since the previous inspection, you have:

- written an action plan that is aligned to the issues identified in your previous inspection
- reviewed the teaching of the sounds that letters make (phonics) and provided further training for those staff who need support
- increased the frequency of monitoring activities
- extended the systems for gathering evidence about the quality of teachers' performance.

The actions in the school improvement plan clearly indicate how the quality of teaching will be improved in order to raise pupils' achievement. The plan does not state how the governors will check for themselves if the planned actions are making a marked difference to pupils' progress and attainment.

Your feedback following observations of teachers' lessons is helping them improve their practice. However, you do not always identify the precise activities teachers need to take to ensure that different groups of pupils make quicker progress.

Teachers are getting better at setting work at the correct level for pupils in the key subjects such as English but they need further help in other subjects, for instance in science. When marking pupils' work, they do not provide clear guidance on what makes a good piece of work or provide time for pupils to act on any suggestions for improvement.

There are effective systems to record pupils' learning and progress overtime. However, there is not a system in place to check that pupils who speak English as an additional language are making as much progress as they can with their language skills. As a result teachers are not able to provide these pupils with the specific guidance they need.

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 recommend that further action is taken to:

- link more closely the evidence from analysis of pupils' work and assessment information when making judgements on the quality of teaching
- marking is more rigorous so that teachers ensure that pupils do not repeat the same mistakes over and over again

- provide appropriate help and guidance to teachers so that they are better able to meet the particular needs of those pupils who speak English as an additional language.

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

### **External support**

The school's improvement advisor provides you with helpful advice. Her recommendations for helping you to take the actions required to become a good school are appropriate and are leading to an improvement in the quality of teaching. Appropriate training has been provided for governors. The local authority will be supporting the governors in their forthcoming external review.

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

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Wordsworth  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**