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15 May 2013

Miss Janette Wilkinson (Acting Headteacher)  
Rillington Community Primary School  
High Street  
Rillington  
Malton  
North Yorkshire  
YO17 8LA

Dear Miss Wilkinson

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Rillington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire**

Following my visit to your school on 14 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the acting headteacher, acting deputy headteacher and the substantive headteacher from September 2013. Meetings were also held with three governors, including the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority (the education development adviser). A brief discussion took place with one member of the teaching staff. The school's improvement plans and supporting documents were also evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection, teaching arrangements in two classes have changed due to the absence of a Reception/ Year 1 teacher. The acting headteacher is now also responsible for literacy, following a review of leadership in this curriculum area. Two governors have resigned from the governing body.

### **Main findings**

Since the previous inspection, the acting headteacher, ably supported by the acting deputy headteacher, has worked swiftly to put in place a detailed school development plan that addresses the key improvement priorities. The plan indicates expected actions, timescales,

personnel accountable and success criteria, linked to how school leaders will monitor the impact of these actions. School leaders recognise that specific actions to develop and improve governance are now also required.

Actions taken by senior leaders include: frequent formal and informal lesson observations; mentoring of individual teachers who require further support; a focused review of pupil progress information; targeted literacy training; the development of new reading resources; and a change in literacy leadership. As a result, improvements in the practice of individual teachers are already evident.

The governing body, supported by the local authority's human resources department, has worked collectively to secure the appointment of a new headteacher from September 2013. However, overall, there has been no significant change in the limited effectiveness of the governing body since the previous inspection. The governing body has yet to fully understand its collective accountability for school improvement issues. An external review of governance, as recommended at the previous inspection, is due to take place this week.

Senior leaders 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:

- ensure that, following the external review, governors develop a sharper understanding of their collective accountability for all school improvement priorities and, as a result, are able to work more effectively with school leaders.

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

### **External support**

Senior leaders have worked very effectively with the local authority. Regular visits from the education development adviser and the literacy consultant have fully supported senior leaders' well focused improvement agenda for teaching and achievement in English. The local authority has also provided support to the Chair of the Governing Body to broker an external review of governance. The local authority intends to complete a full review of the school's progress in the autumn term.

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

Yours sincerely

Angela Headon  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**