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Helen Morris  
Executive Headteacher  
St Alban's Church of England Primary School  
St Albans Close  
Ashmore Park  
Wolverhampton  
WV11 2PF

Dear Mrs Morris

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of St Alban's Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 23 May 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in February 2013.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with you, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection, the head of school and a newly qualified teacher have left. Attempts to appoint a head of school and a teacher with responsibility for leading teaching and learning were unsuccessful. St Thomas' Church of England Primary School, with which St Alban's is federated, and Manor Primary School, a

local teaching school, are providing effective and targeted support to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

### **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

You are committed and determined to achieve rapid improvements at St Alban's. The Chair of the Governing Body is equally resolute in making the necessary speedy advances. Your shared focus on ensuring improvements for the pupils at St Alban's is at the heart of all decision making. You have tackled successfully the weaknesses in financial management. Governors have set up relevant committees with clear responsibilities to meet increased demands on their time and further develop their expertise. The local authority's school improvement officer has secured effective support and taken swift, decisive action to strengthen leadership and improve the quality of teaching, as recorded in recent local authority reviews. Everyone is clear about the journey ahead and there is no hint of complacency.

Together with teachers, you have earned the confidence of a growing proportion of parents, as shown in a recent parent survey and a significant reduction in parental complaints. Disabled pupils and those who have special education needs have been speedily assessed and appropriate support provided. Pupils' attendance is improving incrementally each month and parents, teachers and external agencies are all aware of their responsibilities and accountabilities. The pupils comment on how much they appreciate the refurbished classrooms and new resources to support their learning. The school now meets the current regulations regarding the safeguarding of pupils.

The local authority's action plan includes all areas for improvement identified in the previous inspection report. The planned actions are well defined and reflect the urgent improvements necessary. Although the schools providing the support and training are identified, there are no named roles responsible for its delivery. As a consequence, it is unclear who will be accountable for ensuring that the support is provided. Arrangements for checking the school's progress are clear.

The school's improvement plan identifies all the necessary areas for improvement with the exception of gathering information on pupils educated off site. However, the delivery of the plan relies heavily on you rather than making effective use of available expertise in the two supporting schools and local authority. The plan is clear about the timescales for intended actions. The means by which governors will check progress against the improvement plan are not clear.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the diocese and the Director of Children's Services for Wolverhampton. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Deana Holdaway  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**