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7 June 2013

Mrs A Barnett  
Headteacher  
Hilderthorpe Primary School  
Shaftesbury Road  
Bridlington  
East Yorkshire  
YO15 3PP

Dear Mrs Barnett

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Hilderthorpe Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire**

Following my visit to your school on 6 June 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, I met with you, the executive headteacher, the headteacher designate, the senior leadership team, five members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. I scrutinised a range of documents, undertook a tour of the school and had a brief conversation with the staff during the morning break.

#### **Context**

Since the section 5 inspection a headteacher has been appointed to the substantive post, effective from September 2013. Three full-time teachers have been appointed and will also join the school in September 2013.

#### **Main findings**

The drive and determination to bring about improvement for pupils was palpable in all of the meetings I held with you, your colleagues and governors. Decisive action is being taken. A range of well thought through strategies and actions are in place. Regular monitoring, review and evaluation of activities undertaken so far are realistic, reflective and demonstrate that improvement is being sustained at a brisk pace.

The senior leaders' 'GROW' programme of structured staff training and coaching draws well upon best practice within the school and elsewhere. This is making a strong contribution to improvements throughout the school. A significant number of lesson observations have been undertaken, a regular cycle of pupil performance meetings is in place and frequent scrutiny of pupils' work in their books shows that the quality of teaching and marking is improving. The way teachers assess pupils' work, track their progress and set targets is becoming increasingly refined and focused on individual pupils' learning needs and their expected learning outcomes. As a result of increasingly robust evidence, school leaders are confident that the actions being taken are leading to improvements in pupils' achievements and having a positive impact on the pupils' approach to, and enjoyment of learning.

Governors demonstrate a clear intent to make a difference to the school. They are improving their ability to do so by accessing a range of appropriate local authority training. A skills audit has been completed and an external review of governance is underway. The committee structure has been revised so that it enables governors to monitor the impact and actions the senior leadership team are taking and to support and challenge leaders more effectively.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

The local authority has provided well targeted and effectively directed support through the acting headteacher and the executive headteacher, as well as a range of carefully tailored actions that includes support for phase leaders and monthly progress review meetings. The local authority is also minimising the potential risk to the pace of improvement that a change in headteacher sometimes brings. This is being achieved by ensuring that the headteacher designate is able to participate fully in improvement actions this term – including the three most recent teacher appointments - and by sustaining funding for the acting headteacher and executive head teacher posts through to 31 August 2013.

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

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

**Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Paul Evans- Chair of the Governing Body
- the Director of Children's Services for the East Riding of Yorkshire Local authority
- The lead inspector.