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17 June 2013

Mrs Alison Hardy  
Headteacher  
Pinxton Kirkstead Junior School  
Kirkstead Road  
Pinxton  
NG16 6NA

Dear Mrs Hardy

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit to Pinxton Kirkstead Junior School**

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

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the deputy headteacher, representatives of the governing body and a local authority officer to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. We jointly conducted a walk around school. I evaluated your school improvement plan.

### **Context**

Since the inspection, you have been appointed to the substantive headteacher post with effect from 1 May 2013, following a period as acting headteacher.

### **Main findings**

In partnership with the deputy headteacher, you have taken swift action to improve the quality of teaching and learning. You have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in teaching and are providing individual support and

challenge to make sure that these weaknesses are addressed. You have taken effective steps to improve the use of questioning so that pupils have to think more deeply about their learning and consider alternative possibilities. Recent checks made by senior leaders show that this is better than at the time of the inspection. You are now addressing with urgency the other aspects of teaching that were identified for improvement at the time of the inspection. You acknowledge that inconsistencies remain in the quality of teaching because some teachers are not responding to the detailed feedback you have given them about how to improve the effectiveness of their work.

Teachers do not have a good enough understanding of assessment data and are not always using assessment information effectively when planning lessons. Systems for collecting and analysing data at senior management level are improving and you are making good use of national assessment data to check how well pupils in your school are progressing compared with the national averages.

Your school improvement plan is clearly focused on the issues identified at the time of the inspection. The plan sets out your higher expectations and it is clear what needs to happen and how aspects will be monitored. However, it does not include quantifiable targets against which progress can be measured.

Governors are knowledgeable about why aspects of teaching need improving. They are increasingly using data to understand how different groups are progressing. They have a good understanding of how the school monitors and manages the performance of teachers and how this links to the recommendations for improvement given at the inspection.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure all teachers respond quickly to feedback on how to improve their teaching so that teaching and learning is consistently good
- improve teachers' understanding, and use of, assessment data so that lessons are well planned to meet the needs of all pupils and improve their progress
- include measurable targets in the school improvement plan that will support the school in getting to 'good' swiftly.

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

### **External support**

The school has welcomed the training, support and advice from the local authority. This is starting to improve teaching. The local authority is working closely with the school and the link adviser visits regularly to monitor the school's developments. He is currently brokering a partnership with another local school to help raise teachers' expectations of teaching and learning.

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

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Bathgate  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**