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24 June 2013

Mr J Drake  
Headteacher  
Coppice Valley Community Primary School  
Knapping Hill  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG1 2DN

Dear Mr Drake

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Coppice Valley Community Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 21 June 2013, with Mark Evans, Her Majesty's Inspector, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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, the deputy headteacher, and the governing body, and a telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated and school data and monitoring was reviewed and discussed.

#### **Main findings**

You are drawing effectively upon the partnership links that you established with an outstanding school prior to the section 5 inspection. The programme of support that you have developed, with the help of a national leader of education, has strengthened and aligned the focus on the school's areas for improvement. Coaching and training to support teachers develop their practice has started to tackle weaknesses identified at the last inspection. We spoke about your monitoring which shows that staff are starting to use time in lessons more purposefully so that

younger pupils spend more time learning. Although there have been no changes since the last inspection you anticipate future staffing changes from September. Suitable plans are in place to secure continuity of teaching for pupils and focused support for subject leadership of mathematics. Your decision to participate in a national research programme is highly pertinent to the school's work to close the gaps in boys' progress and attainment and those of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding.

Governors have drawn effectively on recent training from the headteacher of Askwith Community Primary School. They have a better understanding of data and now feel that they are able to use their expertise to help the school in analysing and presenting information to compare the standards and progress of different groups of pupils. Opportunities to act upon this have yet to be integrated into the school's work so that the progress of different groups of pupils can be monitored more carefully. Governors have not been involved enough in developing the short-term action plan following the section 5 inspection. However, they have identified the right weaknesses in the plan: they know for example, that success criteria and the timescale for each action are not sufficiently explicit to enable them to support and challenge or hold leaders to account.

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 that governors are involved in developing the improvement plan so that it has crisper deadlines and explicit success criteria to help leaders check the school's work precisely and gauge when new actions are required.

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 have assisted school leaders by brokering greater support and coaching from a partner school and experienced headteacher. This has already proved to be usefully assisting the school to develop teaching and governors knowledge of data. Communication between the local authority, partners and the school is developing well to ensure a co-ordinated approach to promote improvement. The school found the Ofsted seminar: 'getting to good' useful.

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

Yours sincerely

Gina White

**Her Majesty's Inspector**