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Crystal Wiggs  
Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery  
Lancaster Gardens  
Southend-on-Sea  
SS1 2NS

Dear Mrs Wiggs

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery**

Following my visit to your school on 9 September 2013, 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During my visit, I met with you and we visited classrooms together. I met with a member of the governing body, the two acting deputy headteachers and a representative from the local authority. I also met with a consultant who is due to work with the school. I looked at school documents including improvement plans and records of monitoring activities.

### **Context**

Since the Section 5 inspection, three teachers have left the school and six have joined the school. You have reviewed the leadership structure and appointed two acting deputy headteachers.

### **Main findings**

You and other leaders focus on improving the quality of teaching. Monitoring activities, training and support is beginning to secure better progress for pupils in reading, writing and mathematics in most year groups. Governors have appointed

experienced teachers to fill vacancies and to release the acting deputies so that they can focus their efforts on continuing to improve teaching across the school.

Additional teachers have been appointed so that some pupils can be taught in smaller groups, for instance in Year 5. Improvements to teaching are too recent to affect outcomes for Year 6 and Year 2 pupils and attainment at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 fell in the most recent summer assessments. You and the governors have secured external support from consultants to improve teaching through individual coaching and whole school training. You and other leaders were concerned that teachers' assessments were not accurate enough and you worked with the local authority to secure an accurate picture of pupils' attainment as a base-line for progress.

School improvement plans are detailed and address the areas of weakness identified at the Section 5 inspection. However, some of the targets for improvement are not ambitious enough to secure good progress and attainment. Furthermore, some of the measures of success are not specific enough to help leaders and governors check the impact of the school's actions.

You regularly monitor the quality of teaching and provide useful feedback to teachers but sometimes your evaluations do not take enough account of pupils' progress when judging the effectiveness of lessons. You take appropriate account of progress data when judging teaching overtime but you do not yet look in books for further evidence of the progress pupils make.

Members of the governing body access training provided by the local authority. There is a specific and appropriate improvement plan to improve governance. The local authority has secured additional governors with the relevant skills and experience to improve the effectiveness of the governing body but they are not yet able to drive the necessary improvements in governance. The local authority plans to commission a review of governance during this autumn term.

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:

- Review targets for improvement in the school's improvement plans to ensure they are ambitious enough to secure good progress and attainment by the time of the next inspection.
- Review measures of success in the school's improvement plans to ensure that leaders and governors can easily measure the impact of the school's actions.
- Ensure that leaders' judgements of the effectiveness of lessons focus on the progress pupils make.
- Ensure that leaders monitor the progress pupils make in books to ensure they have a fuller picture of the quality of teaching overtime.
- Ensure that the planned review of governance takes place urgently.

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 is monitoring the school effectively through regular meetings. It has provided some effective support to improve assessment and the quality of teaching. A local leader of education will begin working with the headteacher to support her leadership. The local authority are rightly concerned about the recent fall in attainment at Key Stage 1 and 2 and plan to conduct a whole school review of teaching and leadership.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for insert local authority name and as below.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Winter  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**