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17 October 2013

Mrs Pamela Smith  
Headteacher  
Grenoside Community Primary School  
Norfolk Hill  
Grenoside  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S35 8QB

Dear Mrs Smith

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Grenoside Community Primary School**

Following my visit with Ian McNeilly Her Majesty's Inspector to your school on 16 October 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 June 2013.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, three members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority and senior staff. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated.

#### **Context**

Since the last inspection in June 2013 there has been a new headteacher appointed. The headteacher, who has been deployed by the local authority, took up post on 1 September 2013 and this arrangement is for one year in the first instance. A new Chair of the Governing Body has been elected. An application has been made to change the governance of the school to an Interim Executive Board (IEB). Currently, a core group of seven governors, including one new appointment, is providing strategic leadership and management in the transition period to an IEB. One new teacher has been appointed to the school staff. Consideration is being made of conversion to sponsored academy status.

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

Following the school's last inspection no time was wasted in strengthening the quality of leadership and management. The local authority acted to put in place changes to leadership positions in the school and in the governing body. They are bringing about much needed improvements. The headteacher, through her drive, energy and clear direction is beginning to build the capacity of the school's senior leadership team. The roles and responsibilities of teachers and non-teaching staff have been reviewed with fresh job descriptions providing sharper expectations for the management of performance. School plans for improvement detail suitable and measurable targets for improvements in the quality of teaching and for the progress expected of pupils. The timescales for improvements are carefully mapped to show step-by-step stages on the journey to becoming a good school. Staff and governor training is an integral part of improvement plans.

The governing body, while reduced in numbers, has reorganised the committee structure after welcomed advice from the governing body of Oughtibridge primary school, an outstanding local school. The result is three focused committees with a priority on the school's points for improvement outlined in the inspection report. Governors are increasingly familiar with the school's performance data due to much-improved communication from school leaders and a greater transparency about the availability of such information. Consequently, governors are becoming better placed to understand the school's strengths and weaknesses. The performance management systems are more closely correlated with pupils' progress measures and, in time, this is aimed at improving the governing body's ability to hold staff more rigorously to account. The governing body has improved communication with parents by holding meetings, distributing written information and asking their views through questionnaires.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plans are 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 and the Interim Executive Director Children Young People and Families for Sheffield. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

John Coleman

**Senior Her Majesty's Inspector**