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4 November 2013

Mrs Karen Doherty  
Interim Headteacher  
Coston Primary School  
Oldfield lane South  
Greenford  
UB6 9JU

Dear Mrs Doherty

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Coston Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 4 November 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Given the very challenging circumstances the school faces from staff turbulence, 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:

- extend the school improvement plan into the Spring term 2014, and produce an up-to-date self-evaluation summary document
- ensure that that quality of teaching is consistently good.

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

## **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with you, the acting Chair of the Governing Body and his local authority mentor, and the senior advisor from the local authority. I reviewed your updated school improvement plan. We also visited every class together to look at the quality of teaching and the marking of students' work.

## **Context**

Since the previous monitoring inspection, the headteacher has been absent since June 2013 due to illness, and you have been in post as interim headteacher from September 2013. In the interim period, the deputy headteacher led the school until the local authority arranged for an experienced headteacher to take over until your arrival. The Chair of the Governing Body resigned in May 2013 and his successor has very recently stepped down. The Vice Chair of the Governing Body is currently acting as Chair of the Governing Body. A significant proportion of staff have left the school, and the leaders of literacy and numeracy have relinquished their responsibilities. The deputy headteacher has tendered her resignation, and will be replaced by two seconded assistant headteachers from January 2014. A new special educational needs co-ordinator took up her post in September 2013.

## **Main findings**

Information presented to me by the school during the visit shows that pupils' progress at the end of Key Stage 1 remains variable, and progress in reading and writing is below national expectations. The proportion of pupils making expected progress by the end of Key Stage 2 remains high. However, too few pupils make good progress.

As interim headteacher, you have clearly conveyed your higher expectations to both teachers and members of the governing body, and both are responding positively to these. You have established a more accurate picture of the current quality of teaching in the school, and are providing valuable support for those teachers whose teaching is not yet consistently good.

You have reviewed and re-written the school improvement plan which covers the autumn term, but there is currently no up-to date self-evaluation summary.

Members of the governing body acknowledge they have not provided a sufficient degree of challenge and support in the past, but are starting to do this, and have now produced their own action plan.

## **External support**

The local authority is very much aware of the school's fragile position and has provided additional capacity at senior leadership level. It also provides support through its Ealing Challenge Programme. The challenge provided by the local authority compensates for the lack of challenge from the governing body in the past. The local authority is now strengthening governance by offering the services of an experienced governor mentor. The interim headteacher has also made good use of the local authority's human resources department to tackle some challenging staffing issues.

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

Yours sincerely

John Daniell  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**