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14 November 2013

Barbara Warren  
Headteacher  
Alderwood Primary School  
Rainham Close  
Eltham  
London  
SE9 2JH

Dear Mrs Warren

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Alderwood Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 13 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 first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and other senior leaders, a group of pupils, two members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school development plan, documentation about the monitoring of teaching and information about pupils' achievement were evaluated. We discussed strengths and weaknesses in teaching as we toured the school to see pupils working in lessons.

### **Context**

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection. There are three newly qualified teachers in post.

## **Main findings**

The newly formed senior team leads with confidence and consequently, is having greater impact in driving improvement. You have a very secure understanding of where teaching is weakest. For example, you are aware of the need to review provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and Key Stage 1. You have acted swiftly to put in place support and development programmes for staff and clearly explained to teachers what is expected of them and provided appropriately timed training to help them all improve. Middle leaders responsible for different areas of the school's work are more accountable for their actions. They have increased their level of monitoring, and they have a better understanding of where attention needs to be paid to ensure further improvements are made. Senior leaders have taken difficult but effective decisions to manage teachers' underperformance.

Rigorous review of school data is helping you to gain a sharper picture of how well pupils are learning, and responding where data show that pupils' progress is stalling or slowing down. By analysing the data for each class, you are holding teachers to account through robust discussions about pupils' achievement. Teachers across the school are working together to plan lessons and observe good practice. Consequently, this is leading to improvements in teaching.

Members of the governing body are keen to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. They are making frequent visits to gain greater understanding of the school and its progress. They report that they are able to hold the school to account more effectively than before because of the good quality information provided by the headteacher. Nevertheless, governors need to further develop their skills so they can measure the school's progress on its journey to become a good school and more effectively support and challenge senior leaders.

All the areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully incorporated into school planning. However, some plans are not specific enough to give a precise view of how well actions are working and how senior leaders and the governing body will check that the school's actions are making a difference to pupils' learning and the quality of teaching.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, I recommend that further action is taken to:

- Sharpen improvement plans so that they include timescales and rigorous evaluation procedures that detail how senior leaders and the governing body will check that the school's actions are making a difference to pupils' learning and the quality of teaching.

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 school is benefitting from good support from the local authority. The local authority has established a termly monitoring board to review the school's progress regularly. This is helping to check how quickly the school is improving and broker further support and training as necessary. The local authority adviser is providing effective training for middle and senior leaders to highlight strengths and weaknesses in teaching and its impact on pupil achievement.

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

Yours sincerely

Kekshan Salaria  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**