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13 January 2014

Ellen Gascoigne  
Headteacher  
Sutton-on-Trent Primary School  
Church Street  
Sutton-on-Trent  
NG23 6PD

Dear Miss Gascoigne

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Sutton-on-Trent Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 10 January 2014, 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 November 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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:

- increase the number of pupils making progress at a better-than-expected rate in reading, writing and mathematics
- ensure this is a priority for leaders, governors and staff by making it a central part of plans for improving teaching, the evaluation of pupils' progress and targets for teachers.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher, a member of the Governing Body and a representative of the Local Authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school action plans, information about pupils' progress and the programme for improving teaching.

### **Main findings**

For good overall effectiveness, the key priority is to increase the number of pupils making progress at a better-than-expected rate. There is insufficient focus on this in the evaluation of pupils' achievement, the targets set for teachers and the criteria for judging the impact of action plans to improve teaching.

Your action plans are well adapted to meet the professional development needs of each teacher. As a result, there are already indications of improvement leading to better achievement for pupils. You understand, with appropriate prompting from the Governing Body and Local Authority, that there needs to be a real sense of urgency in removing the remaining weaknesses so that the school can rise above Grade 3 for the first time in many years. You have a clear and thorough schedule for monitoring improvements in teaching and achievement, which is strengthened by the involvement of a headteacher from an outstanding school to ensure rigour and accuracy. Your system for monitoring pupils' progress easily provides the information you need to fulfil the recommendations I have given you. The Governing Body monitors the school's performance in detail, arranges additional external support where needed and provides very good challenge, especially in relation to the pace of improvement.

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

### **External support**

The local authority have commissioned a consultant who provides effective support and challenge to the school, especially in relation to formulating effective plans and monitoring pupils' achievement accurately.

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

Yours sincerely

John Rutherford  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**