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27 January 2014

Mrs Vicky Matthews  
Headteacher  
New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School  
School Lane  
New Holland  
Barrow-upon-Humber  
Lincolnshire  
DN19 7RN

Dear Mrs Matthews

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School, North Lincolnshire**

Following my visit to your school on 24 January 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on 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 October 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:

- Ensure all marking provides pupils with the guidance they need to improve their work and that opportunities are provided for pupils to act upon the guidance.

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, other senior leaders, members of the governing body and the School Improvement Partner to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan and a number of other documents were evaluated. A visit was made to each classroom to see the teaching of literacy and a sample of pupils' writing from across the whole school was scrutinised.

## **Context**

Since the last inspection there have been no changes in staffing. Stronger links with other local schools are being utilised to support the development of resources for the new curriculum and to moderate assessments.

## **Main findings**

You have put together comprehensive plans to address the areas for improvement identified in the last inspection and are taking steps to move the school forward rapidly. You have a clear vision for the school. Your approach to monitoring the quality of teaching has raised the expectations of staff and pupils, and everyone is responding well. All members of staff are contributing to scrutiny of pupils' work and joint lesson planning. As a result planning is more consistent and the quality of work pupils produce is improving.

The quality of teaching is also improving because of the bespoke support given to individual teachers. As a result of better teaching, pupils' attainment is rising and progress increasing. In particular, pupils writing skills are far better than that seen during the last inspection. Staff have been trained in developing writing skills and pupils are now encouraged to write at length and have more opportunities to write independently across the curriculum. Weaknesses in handwriting and presentation are being tackled consistently across the school and pupils are taking pride in their work. Marking, although improving, is still variable. Some marking clearly identifies what pupils have done well and exactly what they need to do to improve their work. Where this is the case, pupils respond well and make the necessary improvements. However, too often pupils do not follow through on the comments made by teachers, and as a result, make the same mistakes again.

The role of literacy and numeracy coordinators is developing well. They have increased their areas of responsibility and are more actively checking standards across the whole school. This is ensuring weaknesses are identified quickly and tackled earlier. Governors are fully supportive of the school and of the actions being taken by you. Governors are contributing positively to the monitoring of teaching and learning. Their involvement in learning walks is ensuring they have a detailed knowledge of the school and of improvements being made in writing and marking.

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**

Since the last inspection the local authority has brokered a link with a local primary school. This link is being used to provide support in developing resources for the new curriculum to be implemented from September 2014. The School Improvement Partner made joint lesson observations with you and supported the writing of the school development plan.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Smith  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**