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5 February 2014

Mr Chris Read  
Executive Headteacher  
Angel Road Junior School  
Angel Road  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR3 3HS

Dear Mr Read

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Angel Road Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 4 February 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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:

- make your expectations of the role of middle leaders in improving the quality of teaching of learning more explicit.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, the deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. I also visited each classroom to see pupils being taught and looked at a sample of pupils' workbooks in English and mathematics. I also looked at information regarding the school's appraisal systems and from the checks on pupils' work which you have undertaken during this school year.

## **Context**

Since the previous inspection the executive headteacher retired and you have taken up the post of executive headteacher.

## **Main findings**

Both you and the deputy headteacher demonstrated an accurate understanding of what needs to be done in order for the school to be judged as good at the next inspection. You have already started to address weaknesses, by focusing on improving the quality of teaching across the school, paying particular attention to Years 3 and 4. You have also begun to hold teachers to account more effectively for the progress that pupils make, by increasing the rigour and regularity of lesson observations and the checks on pupils' work. The role of middle leaders within these processes, however, has yet to be clearly established. As a result too much responsibility is currently falling onto you and the deputy headteacher.

The school improvement plan clearly sets out how you intend to address each of the weaknesses identified at the previous inspection. It identifies how each of the planned actions will be monitored and evaluated and by whom.

You have improved the school's systems for recording information about pupils' attainment. As a result you are now able to check the progress of individuals and groups of pupils more easily and more teachers are now planning work which provides a better level of challenge to all pupils.

You have taken appropriate action to address the weaknesses identified in the way that pupil premium funding is used. The progress of this group of pupils is now monitored closely and specific programmes have been planned to ensure that the gap in performance between these pupils and their peers is narrowed.

The governing body recognised that it was not holding the school to account effectively and organised a review of governance during the Autumn term. Governors reported that they now have a better understanding of the improvements that are needed. Governors are now accessing better quality information regarding pupils' progress and this is helping them to hold the school to account more effectively.

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**

Prior to the inspection the local authority provided 'light touch' support for the school. It now recognises the school's underperformance and the need for it to make rapid improvement. As a result the local authority is working more closely with the school and is offering access to a greater level of support for school leaders and teachers. The school is also looking to broker support, through an improving teacher programme, from a local teaching school.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**