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Mr Michael Hannon
Headteacher
Grange Primary School
Station Road
Long Eaton
Nottingham
NG10 2DU

Dear Mr Hannon

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Grange Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 11 March 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 January 2014. 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 that action plans set out clearly how the school will evaluate its progress.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the senior leadership team, the mathematics coordinator, and members of the governing body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. A telephone discussion was held with a representative of the local authority. I visited all classrooms and held discussions with pupils. The school improvement and action plans were evaluated and I scrutinised other documents, including records of observations and evaluations of

teaching carried out by the school, examples of teachers' planning, and the school's data on the current progress of pupils.

Main findings

You have responded positively to the findings of the recent inspection and took action quickly to get the staff working on making the necessary improvements in teaching. A training day took place within a week of the inspection and was given over to planning the improvements, which the staff have subsequently acted upon. As a result, the staff are questioning the pupils more frequently. They are also providing more opportunities for the pupils to engage in research and to use a broader range of resources, including tablet computers, dictionaries and thesauruses, and 'learning walls', which provide the pupils with prompts to help them with their learning. These developments are helping the pupils to understand how they can improve their work, particularly their writing. At the same time, the pupils are thinking more carefully about their handwriting and how to present their work because of the greater emphasis now being placed on these things.

The school's data indicate that the pupils' progress currently is better than in previous years. The school monitors the progress of each individual carefully and a training day is imminent. This will focus on how to make more-effective use of data to ensure consistently high expectations of the pupils' progress. In the lessons I visited, the pupils understood clearly what they were learning about and were finding the tasks challenging. The pupils with whom I spoke had a good sense of how well they are doing currently and had challenging targets to reach. They understood what they needed to do to achieve their targets.

Senior leaders and other members of staff with responsibilities have undertaken a range of suitable activities already to check on the progress being made with the planned improvements. That has enabled them to provide better feedback to the staff more frequently, making greater use of their expertise to support improvements in teaching. However, the school's action plans do not set out clearly how the school will evaluate its progress.

The external reviews of governance and of the school's use of the pupil premium have not happened yet, but are planned to take place within the next two weeks. A programme of training for governors has been planned. Already, governors are involved more actively with the school. They are more questioning of leaders and managers and this is increasing the staff's sense of accountability.

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 has received helpful support provided by the local authority, particularly with monitoring the progress being made by the school. As a result, you have more-accurate evidence about what is working and what is not. You have also taken the initiative in identifying other sources of support. For example, you have employed an independent consultant, who is helping you to improve the use of data on the pupils' progress and to provide training for the staff, which will take place shortly. You have made a link with an outstanding school, which is providing opportunities for staff development.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector