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13 March 2014

Mr Derek Gaydon  
Pennington CofE Primary School  
Pennington  
Ulverston  
Cumbria  
LA12 0RR

Dear Mr Gaydon

### **No formal designation monitoring inspection of Pennington CofE Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 12 March 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings.

The inspection was a monitoring inspection carried out in accordance with no formal designation procedures and conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was carried out because the Chief Inspector was concerned about the effectiveness of safety arrangements.

This inspection was carried out with one day's notice. I held discussions with you, the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and a randomly selected group of pupils from each year group. I also spoke to staff and pupils as I walked around the school and to parents as they brought their children to school. I conducted tours of the site, observed traffic arrangements on the road and lane outside the school and scrutinised a range of documents, including the safeguarding, behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time:

The school's safety arrangements require improvement.

### **Evidence**

The safeguarding policy is up to date and has been ratified by the governing body and staff have received the requisite training. I shared some minor inconsistencies in documentation which you accept and have already taken action to rectify.

The pupils who spoke to me were very positive about the school and the staff. They said that they felt safe at the school and in the surrounding area. They knew about road and rail safety and how to protect themselves from harm when using the internet and other social media. Some of them said that they had experienced bullying but the incidents had been dealt with effectively. They were very clear about whom to contact if they had any worries when in school.

The school has a rigorous system for conducting risk assessments prior to educational visits and pupils are prepared well for such events, as was seen when I observed pupils from Reception and Year 1 getting ready to go to the forest school.

Behaviour around the school is good. Pupils relate well to each other and to adults, they are polite and welcoming towards visitors. They arrive in the classroom promptly and ready to work. The school has a well-devised behaviour policy with a clearly defined system of rewards and consequences. The behaviour log shows that incidents of misbehaviour are dealt with promptly, sensitively and effectively, with few repeat lapses of behaviour by those pupils who have been seen by senior staff.

During my visit, I identified factors that pose a potential risk to pupils' safety. There is considerable congestion outside the school at the beginning and end of the day. This is exacerbated by the fact that not all parents take heed of the no parking bollards or zigzag yellow lines outside the school. The yellow markings are worn and difficult to see. Too many drivers ignore the 20-mile-an-hour speed limit outside the school. We discussed improvements that could be made to the security arrangements in and around the school buildings.

### **Priorities for further improvement**

- As a matter of urgency, the school should:
  - work with the local authority, the council highways department, the police, parents and the local community to ensure that the no-parking signs and speed restrictions outside the school are clearly visible and that strict account is taken of them
  - work with the local authority to review the security arrangements on the school site and draw up and implement an action plan to bring about the necessary improvements.
- The local authority should monitor the implementation of the school's action plan for improvement.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Education, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Acting Corporate Director of Children's Services for Cumbria. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Aelwyn Pugh

**Her Majesty's Inspector**

