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14 March 2014

Mr Richard Bain  
Headteacher  
Sandhill View School  
Grindon Lane  
Thorney Close  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR3 4EN

Dear Mr Bain

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Sandhill View School**

Following my visit to your school on 13 March 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in December 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body together with a group of governors and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated.

### **Context**

There have been no significant changes to staffing since the section 5 inspection. The governing body is undertaking an exploration of academy status for the school and three new parent governors have been appointed to the governing body.

## **The quality of leadership in and management of the school**

The headteacher and school leaders have responded rapidly to the judgement of the recent inspection and are taking effective action to address the areas for improvement identified in the last report. For example, a much more rigorous and regular system for collecting and analysing data about pupils' progress and identifying underachievement is now in place and current school information indicates that achievement is rising. This, together with much-improved marking and planning policies used by all teachers and the introduction of a more consistent behaviour management system, should help to raise the quality of teaching in the school. An enhanced lesson observation system has identified a number of teachers who have benefited from support from working with colleagues from the Harton Teaching School Alliance. The school believes that the impact of this work can be seen in the reduction in the proportion of teaching that is less than good and the eradication of inadequate teaching.

The governing body is now more aware of developments taking place in the school and governors are growing in confidence in their ability to interpret information about the progress students are making. The governor challenge group meets regularly with school senior leaders and, through the highly effective work of the local authority school improvement partner to improve their understanding of assessment information, is better able both to support and challenge the work of the school.

While the school's action plans provide a detailed framework for the development of the school and are starting to result in improvement, in some areas they lack precision about the timing and pace of the many improvements required. Additional milestones for improvements in pupil achievement and teaching are being added to check that improvements are happening on schedule.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's action plans are fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, and the Executive Director of People's Services for Sunderland. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely,

David Brown

**Her Majesty's Inspector**