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Kath Sansom  
Headteacher  
Wyburns Primary School  
Nevern Road  
Rayleigh  
SS6 7PE

Dear Mrs Sansom

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Wyburns Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 20 May 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 December 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 last section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- include more quantifiable measures in the school's improvement plan so that senior leaders, including governors, can accurately measure the impact of the school's work.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and members of the senior leadership team. I also met with governors, including the Chair of the Governing Body, and spoke on the phone to a representative of the local authority. I looked at pupils' work in English and mathematics from across the school, along with information about pupils' progress. I evaluated the school's action plan and associated documents and accompanied you on visits to all classes.

## **Context**

Since the previous inspection the deputy headteacher has been appointed to a headteacher post at another school. An assistant headteacher has been appointed, as have four new teachers who will start at the school in September 2014. The governing body decided to re-constitute and reduce in size in February 2014.

## **Main findings**

During this visit you demonstrated a clear understanding of what the school needs to do in order to be judged as good at its next inspection. You are working methodically and effectively to improve standards at the school. Through the development of the school's teaching and learning policy you have made clear your expectations and, with the support of other leaders, you are now holding teachers to account for the quality of their teaching and the progress that their pupils are making.

The school now makes better use of assessment to measure the impact of actions taken. Senior leaders hold half-termly meetings with teachers to review pupils' attainment and progress. Pupils whose progress is giving cause for concern are provided with additional support through a wide range of intervention programmes. Their progress, within these programmes, is reviewed regularly.

You have provided effective support and challenge to teachers in order to ensure that a higher proportion of teaching is at least good and inadequate teaching is eradicated. The work in pupils' books indicates that standards are improving, particularly since January 2014. There are still gaps, however, in pupils' knowledge and understanding and basic errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling are sometimes not corrected.

The action plan that was produced after the previous inspection correctly identified the improvements that the school needs to make in order to become good at its next inspection. The plan does not contain sufficient measurable success criteria. This makes it difficult for school leaders and the governing body to accurately assess the impact of the actions that have been taken.

Following the inspection, in December 2013, the governing body decided to re-constitute. All members of the new governing body have undertaken training and their work is now more clearly focused on the steps that the school is taking to improve achievement and teaching. Governors have a clear understanding of what needs to be done in order for the school to become good. They have high expectations and confidence in the headteacher's ability to lead the school through a period of rapid improvement.

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 local authority provides a good level of support and challenge to the school. A local leader in education has been commissioned to work with senior leaders and this has resulted in a number of positive developments. A local authority officer visits the school regularly to check on progress and this has helped to ensure a good rate of improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**