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Peter Slough  
Headteacher  
Small Heath School  
Muntz Street  
Small Heath  
Birmingham  
B10 9RX

Dear Mr Slough

### **No formal designation monitoring inspection of Small Heath School**

Following my visit with Joanne Harvey, Her Majesty's Inspector to your school on 9-10 April 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 the no formal designation procedures and conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was carried out following a request from the Secretary of State.

### **Evidence**

Her Majesty's Inspectors scrutinised the single central record and other documents relating to safeguarding and child protection. They met with the headteacher, senior and middle leaders, representatives of the governing body including the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative from the local authority, groups of students, and a group of parents. They also held a telephone conversation with an external consultant who works with the school.

Her Majesty's Inspectors looked at a wide range of the school's documentation, including the school improvement plan, curriculum documents, the school's checks on how well it is doing, and minutes of governing body meetings. They also observed students' behaviour in lessons and around the school at lunchtime.

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

**The school's safeguarding arrangements meet requirements**

**The quality of leadership and management is outstanding**

**Context**

Almost all of the 1329 students who attend the school are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The majority speak English as an additional language. The proportion of students supported at school action is well above average. The proportion of students supported by school action plus or who have a statement of special educational needs is below average. The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals is over double the national average.

The current headteacher is due to leave the school at the end of August 2014. The governors have appointed his replacement who will start in September.

**Behaviour and safety of pupils**

Students are polite, smartly dressed, well behaved and ambitious. They attend school regularly and achieve highly. They concentrate hard in lessons. They socialise well with each other during lunchtimes. Staff have a 'zero tolerance' approach to poor behaviour. Bullying and racist incidents are extremely rare but when they do occur they are dealt with quickly, effectively and in partnership with parents.

Students are kept safe because of effective safeguarding procedures. The process for checking staff and outside visitors is extremely thorough. Staff are trained to identify when students may be at risk and what to do in such circumstances. Strategies for preventing and tackling extremism are well developed. Students are taught how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Regular letters from the headteacher remind parents about how they can help to keep their children safe. Close links with the police and other agencies support students' safety well.

A major strength of the school is that students value the differences between people of different beliefs, race and backgrounds. This has been achieved through a balanced curriculum for religious education and wide-ranging opportunities for personal development. The school's 'Curriculum Enhancement and Enrichment days', for example, explore a range of cultures, issues and philosophies. There are regular debates on current affairs, helping students to value people's different opinions as they learn about life in modern Britain. Students are encouraged to think broadly through opportunities such as links with schools across Europe and participation in the 'Model United Nations Programme'. Respect is at the heart of the school's ethos. As one student commented: 'There is a lot of respect in the school no matter who you are or where you come from. We are all treated like one family.'

## **The quality of leadership and management**

The headteacher leads by example in his high expectations of students and staff and in maintaining strong links with parents and the community. Consequently, other leaders, teachers and parents, expect every student to achieve highly. He is well supported by leaders at all levels who know individual students very well. This means that students get the support and help they need to make excellent progress. Checks by leaders on teachers' performance are regular and detailed. Staff are held to account robustly for students' achievement and personal development. Leaders and teachers track students' progress carefully. If students are at risk of underachieving, action is swift and effective. Leaders strive for constant improvement and, consequently, teachers receive regular support and training to further develop their teaching. The curriculum meets students' needs fully as it provides them with a wide range of opportunities to excel, including in technology, business and enterprise and the creative arts.

The governing body is highly effective. Governors review the school's safeguarding and child protection policies regularly and make sure they are implemented fully. They know the school's strengths and weaknesses and frequently evaluate the school's improvement. Governors challenge school leaders when necessary and expect any issues to be dealt with urgently. They manage finance well and know how the pupil premium funding is spent and what impact it has on students' achievement.

## **External support**

The local authority recognises the school's many strengths. However, it has not done enough to help the school to share its good practice with other schools in the city. Leaders make good use of the effective support and challenge offered by an independent consultant but the outcomes of this work are not shared extensively enough with the governing body.

I am copying this letter to the Director of Birmingham City Children's Services and the Chair of the Governing Body. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Haynes  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**