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23 May 2014

Mr Christopher Turner-Rowe  
Headteacher  
Rosslyn Park Primary and Nursery School  
Amesbury Circus  
Aspley  
Nottingham  
NG8 6DD

Dear Mr Turner-Rowe

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Rosslyn Park Primary and Nursery School**

Following my visit to your school on 22 May 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the 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 became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place on 25–26 February 2014.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with you and members of the senior leadership team, the Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority, and the 'challenge and support' adviser working with the school. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated. Also, I undertook a tour of the school, visiting all classrooms.

### **Context**

The school is in the process of converting to become an academy. A significant expansion in pupil numbers is planned from September 2014.

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

You have begun to tackle the areas for improvement from the inspection in February. Action was taken quickly to rectify the specific aspects of safeguarding needed. Some basic but essential improvements to teaching have been introduced, which you have, rightly, identified as non-negotiable. There is evidence of increased attention being paid to promoting reading.

Parts of the school have been tidied and sorted, but it was apparent that there is still work to do to ensure that all areas are as attractive, stimulating, clean and tidy as they need to be. The senior leadership team has started to monitor and check the quality of the school's work more systematically. The school's action plan does not, however, include actions to be taken beyond September 2014 and the arrangements for evaluating how much progress is being made are not sufficiently clear. Also, the plan does not indicate sufficiently how the school will make use of external support, including that available from the local authority.

An external review of governance was carried out promptly. The governing body has drawn up an action plan for improvements as a result, but it is still in the early stages of implementing the plan and so the impact of any changes on the progress of the school has yet to be seen. A date has been arranged for a review of the school's use of the pupil premium (additional government funding), but the review had not taken place at the time of this monitoring inspection.

The local authority acted quickly to appoint a 'challenge and support' adviser to work with the school. The work of the adviser is helping the senior leaders at the school and the governing body to understand more fully the extent to which improvements need to be made. The local authority has assisted also in tackling the aspects of safeguarding that were needed and in carrying out the external review of governance.

A range of other support is included in the local authority's statement of action, but the statement does not make sufficiently explicit how the support is intended to be used. This means that the school has not been able to build it into its action plan. Also, the statement of action does not extend currently beyond September 2014. The criteria by which the school's progress will be assessed are not precise enough. The planned 'improvement board', which is a key mechanism through which the school's progress will be evaluated, has not yet met and the senior leaders at the school do not have a clear understanding of its role.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is not fit for purpose.

The school's action plan is not fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

**Her Majesty's Inspector**