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Mrs Helen Donoghue  
Executive Headteacher  
CET Primary School Westminster  
157 Edgware Road  
London  
W2 2HR

Dear Mrs O'Donoghue

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to CET Primary School Westminster**

Following my visit to your school on 16 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 January 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- Sharpen the improvement plan so that it includes clear milestones and success criteria related to pupil achievement, against which the impact of actions can be systematically monitored and evaluated.

Governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection. The school should take immediate action to:

- Ensure an independent review of governance is carried out as quickly as possible.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and the deputy headteacher, the Chair and two other members of the Governing Body and the headteacher from Harrow Teaching School Alliance. A telephone discussion took place with an Early Years specialist working with the school. I scrutinised pupils' English and mathematics books and accompanied you in visits to classrooms where we observed teaching and learning. I also evaluated the school improvement plan and looked at a range of other documents including minutes of governing body meetings.

## **Context**

Since the last inspection, the school has acquired and moved into spacious accommodation on the same site. Two teachers have left the school. One experienced teacher and a long term supply teacher joined the school.

The Governing Body is working with The Department for Education to seek a new sponsor to take responsibility for the school. The negotiations are at an advanced stage but at the time of my visit, a new partnership for CET Primary School Westminster had not been finalised.

## **Main findings**

You have ensured the move into new classrooms has been seamless. As a result the climate for learning has improved since the previous inspection. It is supported appropriately by useful classroom displays that reinforce pupils' targets. Behaviour in classes and around the school is calm, orderly and considerate. You note that the previous inspection has sharpened your focus. As a result, you are following up, and evaluating actions, such as making repeated and regular checks on teaching and learning. You have continued with your plans to increase staffing to support the necessary improvements. This has included moving staff and changing some job responsibilities to allow for more focused teaching and interventions. There are increasing opportunities for staff to work and plan together and share good practice. Continued professional development to improve teachers' practice in raising expectations, and challenging higher attaining pupils, is having a positive impact.

Pupils in the Reception class and Years 1 and 2 are making better progress particularly in writing and mathematics than previously. The school's assessment information indicates that an average proportion of pupils will achieve the expected standard in the national phonics check for Year 1 pupils at the end of this term. You are aware that although, attainment is rising in Years 1 and 2, too much variability remains in Year 3, hampered by the number of changes in teachers.

A scrutiny of pupils' workbooks during the monitoring visit showed marked improvements in presentation and in the written feedback given to pupils about their

work. A strong focus on literacy is improving pupils' grammar and presentation in writing across the school.

All the areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully incorporated into school planning. However, some arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the action plan are not specific. Additionally, there is a lack of precision about success criteria and intended outcomes. For example, the plan does not indicate how senior leaders and the governing body will check that the school's actions are making a difference to pupils' learning and the quality of teaching.

The governing body has primarily focused on arrangements to transfer the school to another sponsor. It is disappointing that the recommended independent review of governance has not taken place. Governors report that they are able to hold the school to account more effectively than before because of the information provided by senior leaders and consultants working in the school. Nevertheless, governors need to further develop their skills so they can measure the school's progress on its journey to become a good school and more effectively support and challenge senior leaders.

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**

You have carefully thought about how the school can benefit from partnership work and have agreed a programme of intervention that will support the school in tackling weaknesses in teaching by providing better training for staff and through establishing links with a local teaching school.

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

Yours sincerely

Kekshan Salaria

**Her Majesty's Inspector**