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9 July 2014

Mrs Kay Swann  
Headteacher  
Cawston Voluntary Controlled Primary School  
Aylsham Road  
Cawston  
Norwich  
NR10 4AY

Dear Mrs Swann

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cawston Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 8 July 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 May 2014. 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 recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- ensure that your improvement plans include aspirational targets to illustrate the improvements you are making to the attainment and progress of more-able pupils.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with you and your assistant headteacher, five members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement and development plan and the post-inspection action plan were evaluated. You shared

with me the results achieved by pupils in this year's national tests. An opportunity to walk the school with you gave me the opportunity to observe pupils in lessons.

## **Context**

Since the previous inspection, staffing has remained the same. Two teachers and the assistant headteacher will leave the school at the end of this term. Appointments have already been made to replace them from September 2014.

## **Main findings**

You have responded promptly to the issues raised in the last inspection. New resources have been purchased and training organised to strengthen the teaching of mathematics throughout the school. Subject leaders in English and mathematics are now expected to routinely monitor how well all pupils are progressing, including more-able pupils in their subjects.

Detailed plans for improving the school are in place which rightly prioritises the areas for improvement raised in the recent inspection. These plans include numerical targets for raising achievement but some of them, such as the proportion of more-able pupils exceeding expectations for attainment and progress, are not aspirational enough to raise teachers' expectations of what these pupils are capable of achieving, and ensure that they are fully challenged in lessons.

Results in national tests have improved this year. In Key Stage 1, a larger proportion of pupils met or exceeded national expectations in phonics. A high percentage of pupils in Year 2 attained the expected levels in mathematics, but fewer pupils attained the expected levels in reading and writing. In Key Stage 2, the percentage of Year 6 pupils attaining the expected levels in reading, writing and mathematics is high. The proportion of pupils exceeding expectations is variable. For example, almost every pupil made expected progress in reading, writing and mathematics, and more than half made better than expected progress in reading, but not in writing or in mathematics.

The governing body has contributed to the revised plans for improvement. Current procedures for assessing pupils' progress have been shared with governors to give them a wider understanding of how well they are achieving. You have provided them with anonymised data to help them monitor the progress of individual pupils and to ask you challenging questions about the achievement of different groups of pupils. Procedures to keep pupils safe, including the single central record, remain secure.

## **External support**

You are working with the local authority to help you achieve your aims of being judged as good in your next inspection. This includes joining the Norfolk to Good

and Great programme to gain additional training and support and to learn from other schools with good practice locally and beyond the region.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**