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Mrs Vicky Hogg
Headteacher
Hundon Community Primary School
North Street
Hundon
Sudbury
CO10 8EE

Dear Mrs Hogg

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Hundon Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 11 September 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 June 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.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with you and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also made a telephone call to the local authority to gain their views about the school. The school development plan was evaluated. You shared with me the results achieved by pupils in this year's national tests. Walking the school with you enabled me to see pupils at work in lessons.

Context

Since the last inspection, the school has federated with Thurlow Voluntary Controlled Primary School. You, as executive headteacher, lead and manage both schools, spending two and a half days in each of them every week. The federation is

governed by a single Governing Body. One new teacher who is also the deputy headteacher joined the school in September 2014.

Main findings

You are providing the school with a clear, strategic direction. You have put in place plans to ensure that the school improves quickly and becomes a good one as soon as possible. This includes a programme of regular staff training, routine monitoring of teaching and learning and regular scrutiny of pupils' work to ensure that all make accelerated progress and achieve the standards expected of them. Expectations are high. You feel that there are no barriers preventing the school from being judged to be at least good in 2015.

Results in national tests this year reflect the findings of the last inspection. Almost all pupils attained national expectations in tests of their use of phonics and knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar. The attainment of pupils in both key stages remains higher in reading and mathematics than it does in writing. For example, a large proportion of the pupils in Year 6 exceeded national expectations in reading and mathematics but none of them did so in writing. Your development plans rightly prioritise improving this by introducing different writing styles, making regular assessments of pupils' extended writing and providing much more challenging tasks for the most able.

You are holding to account teachers and subject leaders for the progress made by pupils. A regular cycle of lesson monitoring, scrutiny of marking and review of teachers' planning, led by you and your senior and middle leaders, has been introduced. You have raised expectations of the quality of pupils' work including their handwriting and have strengthened procedures for marking and feedback. Regular meetings with teachers are now programmed to discuss the progress made by each individual pupil and to target additional support towards those who need it most.

Joint working between the two schools in the federation and the appointment of a new deputy headteacher are adding to the school's capacity to make improvements. The Governing Body shows a good understanding of the school and the actions needed to improve it. Governors share your aspirations for a successful re-inspection in 2015. They understand their roles in supporting you in this process, in particular securing high-quality teaching to raise the achievement of all pupils.

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 and your governors value the support provided by the local authority. A challenge partner has been allocated to the school to assist you in resolving the issues raised in the last inspection and preparing the school for its next inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector