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Caroline Dingle
Headteacher
Hurst Hill Primary School
Paul Street
Hurst Hill
Bilston
WV14 9AJ

Dear Mrs Dingle

Special measures monitoring inspection of Hurst Hill Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 19 September 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 in May 2014.

Evidence

During this inspection Her Majesty's Inspector briefly visited classrooms with the headteacher. The inspector scrutinised the local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan. Meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, five governors, including the Chair of the Governing Body, and the Acting Director of Children's Services who is currently the school's Education Improvement Adviser. The inspector also met with a National Leader in Education (NLE) who is supporting the school and a National Leader of Governance (NLG) who has undertaken a review of governance. The single central record was checked to ensure that new staff have been added and that the school complies with statutory requirements in relation to safeguarding and staff vetting procedures.

Context

Two teachers have recently joined the school and one teacher has left since the school's last inspection. One of the new teachers has been seconded from another primary school for one year. One additional learning support assistant has been

appointed to work with pupils in lessons. There have been changes to the roles and responsibilities of senior and middle leaders and the governing body has appointed an additional experienced governor who brings expertise, guidance and support. The local authority has arranged for a NLE to work with the school as well as a NLG to work with and advise the governing body.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

Senior leaders and governors are focusing on the right priorities for improvement. The local authority and governing body have acted promptly since the inspection in May 2014 to commission and complete both an external review of governance and a review of the use being made of the pupil premium. The review of governance provides clear pointers for further improvement and the governing body's school improvement committee is responding by formalising its monitoring activities.

Parents and carers are being kept well informed about the actions the school is taking to sustain improvements to teaching and pupils' achievement. Assessments of pupils' attainment and progress in Key Stages 1 and 2 show improvement on the previous year, and this is confirmed by the most recent national test results for 2014. Some significant gaps remain, however, between the performance of pupils eligible for additional funding through the pupil premium and that of other pupils.

The school improvement plan and the local authority's action plans have clear measures of success, helping leaders and governors to evaluate the impact of their actions. Key leaders are identified in the school's plans, including the governors' improvement committee, but their roles in relation to monitoring and evaluation are unclear. The local authority has acted swiftly to challenge and support the school. There are now good opportunities for staff to see and share good practice through the NLE's oversight and the partnership established with her own federation of primary schools, one of which is an outstanding teaching school.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is 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 Acting Director of Children's Services for Dudley. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Charalambos Loizou
Her Majesty's Inspector