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Mrs Emma Mercer  
Great Creaton Primary School  
Welford Road  
Creaton  
Northampton  
NN6 8NH

Dear Mrs Mercer

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Great Creaton Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 2 October 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2013. 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:

- accelerate the progress of pupils in Year 6 in writing
- ensure that the school's website contains the required information to meet statutory requirements.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with senior leaders, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the action taken since the last monitoring inspection. I evaluated your plans for improvement. I reviewed your most recent data relating to pupils' achievement. I visited each class and considered the quality of pupils' learning in a range of subjects. I looked at the

school's documentation relating to the safeguarding of pupils. I looked at the information which the school provides for parents and carers, including that held on its website.

## **Context**

All of the teaching staff in post at the time of the first monitoring inspection in December 2013, have left the school. The governing body has made three appointments. A senior teacher took up post in April 2014 and teaches pupils in Years 5 and 6. Two teachers commenced their roles in September 2014: an experienced teacher has been appointed to teach pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2; and a newly qualified teacher to teach pupils in Year 3 and Year 4. The senior teacher has been given responsibility for leading English across the hard federation with Clipston Church of England Primary School. The same arrangement exists with the leader of mathematics, who is based at Clipston. Three new members of the governing body have been appointed to fill vacancies arising from resignations.

## **Main findings**

Since the first monitoring visit, you have worked closely with the leader of mathematics across the federation to improve the quality of teaching in the subject. Teachers are using resources more effectively to help pupils secure a better understanding of place value and calculations. Pupils have been challenged to apply their knowledge to solving problems which has helped to improve their skills in reasoning. This has resulted in pupils making faster progress in mathematics, especially the most-able pupils. This has helped to raise standards at the end of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in 2014.

Progress to improve writing, especially in Year 5 and 6, has been slow. As a result, not enough pupils are making the expected progress across Key Stage 2. The recently appointed senior teacher who is responsible for leading English, has already put in place a more robust system for checking where pupils have gaps in their understanding and skills in writing. This has informed a range of approaches targeted at developing pupils' skills in writing more quickly. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 explained that they are doing more writing in other subjects, such as history. This is making their learning more enjoyable. Teachers' marking of pupils' writing is more detailed. Pupils are aware of what they have done well and are now expected to redraft part of their work to show how they have improved. Although this is beginning to help pupils make faster progress, senior leaders are aware of the urgent need to accelerate pupils' progress in writing, especially for the current Year 6 pupils.

You have successfully inducted the three new teachers into the school. Using information from your revised system for tracking of pupils' achievement, they have begun to plan work which is suitably challenging to pupils of different abilities. Pupils

are responding positively to the higher expectations of their teachers and are motivated to work hard towards achieving their targets.

Governors have wasted no time in addressing the areas for improvement identified following an external review in April 2014. Although many aspects of their work were judged as being strong, they have put in place even more rigorous systems for checking on the rate of improvement. Governors' systematic programme of visits is enabling them to hold you to greater account for the extent to which leaders' actions are having a positive impact on pupils' achievements. Governors acknowledge that while the school's website is being redesigned, as it stands, it does not meet statutory requirements.

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**

The local authority has provided effective support to the school. Its adviser's bi-annual reviews have been helpful in checking the school's rate of improvement. You have used the findings from such reviews to inform plans for improvement.

The local authority has brokered effective support from a Local Leader of Education who is the executive headteacher of Boddington and Culworth Primary Schools. She has supported you in ensuring that systems for managing the performance of staff are rigorous. Leaders of English and mathematics are quickly developing their skills in driving improvement through accessing training for subject leaders. This has been provided by the Fairfield Teaching School Alliance.

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

Yours sincerely

David Carter  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**