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7 November 2014

Jacqueline Watkins  
Headteacher  
Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School  
New Park Road, Castlefields  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 2SP

Dear Mrs Watkins

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 6 November 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 July 2014.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, and in addition to a tour of classes and a meeting with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, meetings were held with the local authority's School Improvement Adviser, the Vice Chair of the Governing Body and three governors, and the Director of Schools for Shrewsbury Catholic Diocese. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated. The single central record was checked to ensure that new staff have been added and that the school complies with safeguarding and staff vetting procedures.

#### **Context**

There have been some changes to the composition of the governing body and new appointments have been made since the school's inspection in July. A new Chair and two governors have been appointed. Two class teachers joined the school in September to replace teachers who left at the end of the summer term.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

The headteacher and deputy headteacher have stepped up their monitoring of teaching but are not focusing their efforts enough on the most urgent priorities for sustained improvement. This is because the school's improvement plan lacks focus and clear measures of success. The plan does not include regular milestones or dates to help leaders gauge the impact of actions on teaching or pupils' achievement. It is also not clear who is responsible for monitoring or evaluating each action. Many actions are repeated and are not prioritised, making the plan impractical and unwieldy. Although there is more-accurate pupil performance data to measure how well groups of pupils and individuals are achieving, these have only just been introduced, despite a legacy of underachievement and inadequate teaching.

New governors, including the Chair, have brought additional skills and experience. They accept that there is still a great deal to do to set the school on a course of sustained improvement. Newly appointed staff have a strong track record, so the quality of teaching has been strengthened, but there remains too much teaching that requires improvement or that is inadequate. The governing body has restructured to include a strategic committee. This will coincide with the forthcoming external review of governance. The governing body now has the potential to refocus leaders' efforts on the most urgent priorities for improvement and hold them more to account for pupils' progress and teachers' performance.

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 not 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, the Director of Children's Services for Shropshire and The Diocesan Director of Schools. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Charalambos Loizou  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**