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21 November 2014

Mrs Sinead Fox  
Acting Headteacher  
Woodseats Primary School  
Chesterfield Road  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S8 0SB

Dear Mrs Fox

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Woodseats Primary School, Sheffield**

Following my visit to your school on 20 November 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. At its previous section 5 inspection the school was also judged to require improvement.

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:

- secure permanent arrangements for the leadership of the school so that improvements are consolidated and developed
- ensure that all pupils make at least expected progress and a significant proportion make better than expected progress in writing by the end of Years 2 and 6
- make sure that all children are suitably challenged within the Early Years so that they acquire skills in mathematics and literacy at a faster rate.

## **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, middle leaders, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plans were evaluated. Visits with the acting headteacher were made to the majority of classes.

## **Context**

After the previous inspection, a number of staff including the Executive Headteacher have left or returned to their base schools following secondments. The Acting Headteacher was previously the head of school for the past two years. At the beginning of the autumn term 2014 the following appointments were made; an assistant headteacher responsible for inclusion, two lead practitioners to lead aspects of teaching and learning in Key Stage 2 and two newly qualified teachers. There are three vacancies on the governing body which are in the process of being filled.

## **Main findings**

From 2010 to 2013 pupils' achievement in reading, writing and mathematics was significantly below that expected for their age by the end of Years 2 and 6. Results of national assessments and tests in 2014 at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 clearly show that the trend of under-achievement has been reversed. Throughout the school the proportion of pupils making more than expected progress in reading and mathematics is higher than the national average. Attainment in reading and mathematics is above the national average by the time pupils leave the school. These developments are significant and have been brought about as a result of improved senior leadership, teaching, governance and pupils' good behaviour including their positive attitudes to learning.

While this is an improving school it is not yet as good as it should be. At the time of the recent inspection in May 2014, inspectors noted that pupils were not making sufficient progress in writing or reaching the standards of which they were capable. This is supported by the results of national tests and assessments in 2014. Senior leaders acknowledge this and have wasted no time in implementing strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The recent appointment of a leading practitioner to oversee the development of writing across the school is making a notable difference to pupils' current progress. All pupils now write on a daily basis, increased opportunities are provided for pupils to write in a range of subjects as part of their topic work and teachers model writing effectively during lessons. It is vital that these improvements to provision are sustained and built upon so that the proportion of pupils making more than expected progress in writing increases.

Provision in the Early Years has improved since November 2012. Achievement is rising but now needs to accelerate so that all pupils acquire the requisite skills and knowledge that will prepare them for the next stage of their education. It is important that within this phase expectations of what children are capable of achieving are higher. This needs to be reflected in more challenging activities in literacy and mathematics.

For the past eighteen months an executive headteacher and head of school have given the school focussed and sustained leadership. While further action is required to improve teaching and raise achievement the extent to which the school has improved since 2012 should not be under-estimated. One of the reasons for this is the improved effectiveness of the governing body. Members check the work of the school well and provide support and challenge in equal measure. However, it is imperative that the momentum of improvement is not allowed to falter. To ensure this does not happen the governing body should give urgent consideration to securing the permanent leadership of the school at the earliest opportunity.

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 particularly in relation to personnel issues and this has helped the school move forward. The support for governor training arranged by the local authority has also been a factor contributing to the significant improvement of the effectiveness of the governing body. However, as the school seeks to improve further the local authority will need to provide additional support to enhance children's progress within the Early Years.

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

Yours sincerely

Christopher Keeler  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**