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2 March 2015

Mr Mike Chesters  
The Headteacher  
Winkfield St Mary's CofE Primary School  
Winkfield Row  
Bracknell  
RG42 6NH

Dear Mr Chesters

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Winkfield St Mary's CofE Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 2 March 2015, 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 November 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. The school should take further action to:

- improve the school action plan, so it shows clearly what actions will be taken to improve pupils' progress and how you will know if your actions are improving the school
- check teaching frequently and take swift action to improve practice
- delegate appropriate tasks to leaders and hold them to account for school improvement
- ensure governors have enough information, and gather their own evidence, to be able to hold you to account.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, I met with you, other leaders, governors and a representative from the local authority, to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I visited classes with you and looked at work in pupils' books. I also reviewed school documentation, including the school improvement plan.

## **Main findings**

You have acted with determination and focus to tackle the areas for improvement. You have sensibly restructured the leadership roles so that there are more senior leaders to help you improve the school. However, they are not yet effective in their roles. You have plans to develop their skills, but these need to be accelerated so that you are not doing everything yourself. Senior leaders, who have been in post for longer, need to be held to account more rigorously for driving school improvement.

The support for pupils with special educational needs is improving. You have sensibly used links with local schools to engage additional leadership support. You have employed extra staff to work with individual pupils, but it is too early to see if those pupils are making accelerated progress.

You have undertaken the required pupil premium review, which was positive about the way the school is using the funding provided. You have taken appropriate action to address the recommendations and are sensibly drafting a policy to be clear about how the school will spend the pupil premium grant.

Teaching is improving. In some classes we saw evidence of activities which were better-matched to pupils' abilities. However, we also saw lessons in which learning time was lost because teachers introduced the learning to all the pupils at the same time, even though some already knew what to do. Because you are leading improvements in all areas, your checks on teaching are not as regular as they need to be. This means that, where teachers are not planning and teaching lessons which are engaging and relevant for pupils of all abilities, this is not picked up quickly enough.

Governors have a strong understanding of the school and what needs to be done. They are rightly very supportive of you and your actions to tackle the areas for improvement. They accurately identify that you are still doing too much on your own, but are too accepting of this. They need to hold you to account for improving the skills and effectiveness of other leaders and check that your actions to improve the school are helping pupils to achieve more.

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 responded quickly by providing relevant and useful support, in terms of advice, training and development. The school advisor also recognises that too much falls to you and is taking appropriate steps to support you to change this, so that the school is better placed to improve.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Bracknell Forest and the Diocese of Oxford.

Yours sincerely

**Louise Adams**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**