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20 May 2015

Sarah Page  
Killisick Junior School  
Killisick Road  
Arnold  
Nottingham  
NG5 8BY

Dear Mrs Page

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Killisick Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on May 14 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 February 2015.

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:

- ensure that pupil premium funding is consistently spent on interventions which will improve the achievement of those pupils for whom it is intended
- write a clear, termly plan of the intervention and support that is taking place, so leaders and governors can see what is most effective, and adjust what is not working well enough. The plan should make clear how the success of each item will be measured, along with how and when monitoring and review of each one will take place
- provide governors with additional, summary information which summarises progress made against the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection
- ensure that the planned training and support for governors from the local authority continues so that governors are able to ask the right questions and challenge the school where progress is not fast enough.

## **Evidence**

During the inspection, I held meetings with you, the school's assessment leader, the subject leaders for English and mathematics, a group of pupils, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school improvement plan and undertook a scrutiny of pupils' work. I also toured the school with you to see lessons taking place in different year groups. I examined the school's latest data on achievement and the school's records of safeguarding checks on staff, governors and volunteers.

## **Context**

There have been no significant changes to the school since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

Leaders and governors have responded quickly and effectively to the findings of the last inspection. Together with the local authority, you have drawn up an improvement plan. Governors say that they would appreciate also having a short summary version showing the progress against the highest priorities. Nevertheless, the existing plan is effective in ensuring that improvements are taking place, and at a sufficiently urgent pace. The school has significantly improved how it collects and analyses data, so that leaders know the current achievement of different years, classes and groups of pupils. Teachers are planning and delivering a series of interventions that are helping those pupils whose progress is not yet good. The leaders of English and mathematics are now looking regularly at pupils' work and visiting lessons to ensure that good learning is beginning to happen throughout the school. Staff meetings and recent training have helped teachers to improve.

The pupils' work that I looked at during my visit clearly showed signs of improved marking, and pupils responding to the advice that is being given to them. Teachers are ensuring pupils receive more opportunities to write for different purposes and styles, as well as regular problem solving. Pupils I spoke to during my visit say that their work is challenging and interesting to do. They were also clear that behaviour at lunchtimes and breaktimes has improved significantly since the inspection. I saw pupils being polite and friendly to each other during the day, and playing happily. They were particularly keen to tell me about the success of the 'Playground Peacemakers', pupils who will help anyone who is unhappy or lonely.

Governors are committed to the school and have undertaken a recent external review of their work, which they feel has been very helpful. It has confirmed what they do well and prompted them to consider in which areas they need more training. Governors understand the need to improve so that they can fully challenge the school, in order that all pupils can make good or better progress.

The external review of pupil premium funding confirms that the progress of disadvantaged pupils is variable. For some year groups, their progress is less than expected and spending on intervention is not yet making a consistent impact on this. Gaps in achievement are not all being narrowed, and leaders and governors understand the need to address this urgently.

Ofsted may carry out further monitoring inspections and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

The local authority continues to provide a wide range of support to the school. The advisor has worked closely with leaders to check progress in pupils' books, as well as visiting lessons with them. In addition, she has arranged for teachers at Killisick to visit other schools where pupils make rapid progress. This, along with helping leaders to plan further improvements, has helped ensure that effective action is occurring fast enough and that teaching, and leadership, is improving. Dates have been fixed for the local authority to help governors with further work in understanding data, and to improve their skills in monitoring.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Roary Pownall  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body
- Local authority