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Angela Gartland
Rosh Pinah Primary School
Glengall Road
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Middlesex
HA8 8TE

Dear Mrs Gartland

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Rosh Pinah Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 1 May 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in January 2015. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and senior leadership team, members of the governing body, and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated. The single central record was checked.

Context

The school has been supported from June 2014 by Lilac Sky Schools, a schools and academies chain. Following the inspection, discussions took place between the local authority and the governing body regarding whether the existing leadership and management arrangement with Lilac Sky Schools should continue. Given that Lilac Sky Schools is already an Academy Sponsor with substantial experience of school improvement, it was decided that current arrangements should continue in order to

help bring about the rapid improvement required. Since the previous inspection, one new teacher has been appointed and the school is seeking to appoint a new subject leader for English.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The school has responded well to the weaknesses noted in the recent inspection. The current school development plan tackles clearly the improvements needed in teaching, learning and writing. These had already been identified previously by the school in its own evaluation. Actions have been amended in the light of the inspection, for example, in a revised English plan. Plans written with Lilac Sky Schools' consultants are closely focused on strategies to improve teaching, learning and middle leadership. A detailed response from the school to the inspection is incorporated in the local authority's statement of action. These different plans demonstrate the school's commitment to improvement and its capacity to do so. A single action plan would be clearer, however, and would encourage more precision, for example, in improving the writing of most able pupils.

The governing body has changed significantly over the past year and taken on new members since the previous inspection. It offers strong leadership and a good understanding of the issues facing the school. It has sought an innovative approach to school improvement through its contract with Lilac Sky Schools. It is strongly focused on improving teaching and raising standards for pupils. It communicated the outcome of the inspection, and the action to be taken, clearly to parents. The Chair of the Governing Body meets the headteacher weekly and also has more regular, informal contact. The governing body supports the school well and provides a high level of challenge to ensure speedy improvement.

The local authority's statement of action is an effective and comprehensive plan. It pinpoints the range of support to be provided by different agencies. It focuses explicitly on the areas of weakness from the inspection. Actions are clear, specific and appropriately resourced. Roles and responsibilities are explicitly differentiated, with monitoring and evaluation planned carefully into the programme each half term. Success criteria and timings are specific, although too many actions have been programmed into the early part of the implementation phase.

Following the monitoring inspection, these judgements were made:

The school's improvement plans are fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Barnet. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Philip Jarrett
Additional Inspector