

1 July 2015

Mr Paul Rust  
Headteacher  
Morley Place Junior School  
Old Road  
Conisbrough  
Doncaster  
South Yorkshire  
DN12 3LZ

Dear Mr Rust

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Morley Place Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 30 June 2015, 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 March 2015.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with you and the leader for special educational needs. In the absence of the Chair of the Governing Body, I met with the governor responsible for safeguarding. I also met with a representative of the local authority. I also met with the headteacher of your partner school, Saltersgate Junior School. I reviewed school data and documentation, including that concerning safeguarding. You accompanied me on a tour of the school. Pupils' behaviour was observed both on the tour of the school and in social times. Pupils were spoken to informally.

### **Context**

There are currently three teachers on long-term absence and two supply teachers are covering the roles of two of the absent teachers. One teacher is due to return from maternity leave before the end of term. The school has formed a partnership with an outstanding school, Saltersgate Junior School.

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

You have a clear vision for the school and have conveyed clearly your high expectations of both staff and pupils. Currently not all staff have fully engaged with your vision. Consequently, the amount of progress pupils are making is still too low and in some classes the gaps in achievement between groups of pupils are not closing. The recent review of the use of the pupil premium (additional government money) shows that actions taken have not gone far enough to ensure that spending is having a positive impact on pupils' progress.

You have a good understanding of the challenges facing the school. You have concentrated your attention on gaining an accurate view of the performance of the school and in setting up systems to underpin the school's work. The local authority and the staff from Saltersgate have supported you in accurate evaluation through observations and audits of literacy and mathematics. You have begun work with Saltersgate Junior School to improve the practice of teachers at Morley Place. As a result, you report an increase in pupils' engagement, but it is too soon to measure the impact of this work on pupils' achievement.

The post-Ofsted action plan is focused on areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. However, it is not clear who is going to deliver the actions and who will monitor impact. Planned actions are not always linked to specific and measureable success criteria related to pupils' progress. In addition, plans do not address comprehensively the improvements needed in progress by different groups of pupils. Further action needs to be taken to strengthen the school action plan to include named persons to carry out actions and state who will monitor and evaluate those actions and what impact actions will have on pupils' outcomes and progress.

The single central record is now in place, providing an accurate record and including the necessary detail. The safeguarding governor has received appropriate training and is alert to issues around keeping children safe. All staff, including teaching assistants, administrative support staff, lunchtime staff and teachers, have undertaken appropriate training. You have introduced new policies and procedures to safeguard pupils at your school. However, not all members of staff follow these policies and procedures. As a result, safeguarding is not effective and further action needs to be taken to ensure that all staff follow the safeguarding policy and procedures at all times.

On the whole, the governing body is enthusiastic about the changes which need to be made. Governors have received the action plans but, due to the timing of meetings, have not currently had all of the information required to form an accurate view of the school and, therefore, have not been able to hold the school to account robustly. Governance is being strengthened through the appointment of two local authority governors.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

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

The school's action 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 and the Interim Director Learning and Opportunities: Children and Young People for Doncaster. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Butcher

**Her Majesty's Inspector**