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8 December 2015

Mr Mark Prentice  
Headteacher  
Woods Loke Community Primary School  
Butley Drive  
Oulton Broad  
Lowestoft  
Suffolk  
NR32 3EB

Dear Mr Prentice

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Woods Loke Community Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 26 November 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 second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in March 2015. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are continuing to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order to become a good school.

The school should take further action to:

- ensure that the upcoming changes in senior leadership do not hinder the planned improvements for the school
- continue to support the strengthening of the governing body by assisting with governor recruitment and the induction of new governors.

### **Evidence**

During the inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, the governing body and a representative of the local authority, to discuss the actions taken since the last monitoring visit. The raising achievement plan was

reviewed against actions taken since September 2015. We discussed the pupils' outcomes for 2015 and the targets for 2016. I reviewed your single central record and safeguarding arrangements.

## **Context**

Since my visit in July 2015, you have restructured upper Key Stage 2 and have an additional class. You have also employed several new teachers and support staff. Over the next few months, the senior leadership team will undergo some significant changes. Governors and the remaining senior leaders are committed to ensuring that all new senior appointments are supported to minimise any negative impact this period of change may cause.

## **Main findings**

You have taken many actions to bring about the necessary improvement to the quality of teaching and learning identified in the section 5 inspection. The improved performance data for 2015 and the subsequent in-year data indicate that these improvements are having a positive impact on pupils' outcomes. Of particular note are the improvements in the early years and the Year 1 phonics results. The success in both of these phases is testament to the positive impact of your school improvement strategies and provides a good model for future improvements elsewhere.

Senior leaders play a key role in monitoring the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. There is a robust cycle of lesson observations, learning walks and scrutiny of pupils' work, and this is providing you with an accurate picture of provision. Senior and middle leaders gather a variety of information to support their areas of responsibility and any perceived needs are addressed as part of the professional development schedule. Monitoring is moderated by other senior leaders, the headteacher and the local authority standards and performance officer.

The governing body has worked tirelessly to improve its effectiveness within the school. Governors have a clear understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement and challenge senior leaders to ensure that all provision supports pupils' learning. The governing body remains incomplete, and existing governors have taken on all of the necessary duties of a full governing body. They are additionally challenged by their role in recruiting a new senior leader over the next few months.

## **External support**

The local authority standards and excellence officer has played a pivotal role in supporting senior leaders and the governing body to bring about improvements at Woods Loke Community Primary School. Networking with other local schools has been organised and the school has played an active part in the school improvement

programme facilitated by Ofsted. The level of support from the local authority will continue during the upcoming recruitment process and until the next section 5 inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Deborah Pargeter  
**Ofsted Inspector**