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16 October 2020

Tracey Burnside  
Headteacher  
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Derbyshire  
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Dear Mrs Burnside

### **Ofsted visit to Whittington Green School**

Following my visit with Deborah Mosley, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you, the deputy headteacher, the senior leader responsible for safeguarding and the curriculum leader of science. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

**From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- The school opened fully to all pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils attend full time.
- Attendance since the start of term has been slightly below the attendance at this time last year. Leaders have reassured parents about the school's COVID-19 safety measures. Staff are supporting a small number of pupils who are anxious about being in school.
- The curriculum in Years 7 and 8 is as broad as it was in March 2020. You have reorganised pupils in these year groups into mixed-ability classes.
- Pupils in Years 9 to 11 continue to study the full suite of GCSE or BTEC National Diploma subjects that they chose originally.
- Subject leaders have adapted their curriculum plans so that any missed content will be taught by summer 2021. They have changed the order that content is taught in some year groups because not all classes currently have access to specialist rooms. In subjects such as food technology, teachers are making more use of practical demonstrations than they were previously.
- Leaders have adapted the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum so that pupils can reflect on their experiences during the pandemic.
- You decided not to give pupils formal tests when they returned to school. Teachers are beginning to check what pupils know and remember of the

curriculum. Any pupils who have gaps in their learning will be given after-school support.

- Teachers provide pupils with remote learning when needed. Leaders are providing teachers with training so that the whole curriculum will be available online. The remote curriculum will be aligned with the curriculum that is being delivered in school.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Derbyshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Tordoff  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**