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Jane McKay
Headteacher
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Dear Ms McKay

Ofsted visit to Barrow Hall Orchard Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Vic Wilkinson, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 13 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 and the deputy headteacher. 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 to all pupils on 25 August 2020. Pupils attend full time. Children in the Reception Year attended part time for the first two weeks. They now attend full time.
- Attendance is in line with that usually seen at this point in the school year. You have supported a number of parents and carers so that they feel confident enough to send their children back to school. You communicate frequently with all parents to remind them of the importance of regular attendance.
- All pupils are studying the full range of subjects. You have reordered some parts of the physical education (PE) curriculum, such as gymnastics, so that these are taught later in the school year.
- Teachers have assessed all pupils in reading. Some Year 1 pupils have gaps in their understanding of phonics. You have increased the amount of time that these pupils spend revisiting knowledge from the Reception Year.
- In mathematics, teachers have checked all pupils' knowledge. You know that some pupils' recall of times table facts has improved while they were learning remotely. Teachers are addressing gaps in pupils' understanding of place value.
- You have prioritised the teaching of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, with a particular focus on mental health and online safety.

Teachers have checked pupils' understanding across the wider curriculum. They are using this information to fill any gaps in pupils' knowledge.

- You are currently delivering remote education to a small number of pupils who are absent. This learning matches what pupils would learn if they were in school. You have provided some families with support so that they can access learning online.

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 board of trustees, the director of education for the diocese of Leicestershire, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Leicestershire County Council. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Steve Varnam
Her Majesty's Inspector