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6 November 2020

Mrs Moira Hunt  
Interim Headteacher  
Bluecoat Meres Primary Academy  
Dysart Road  
Grantham  
Lincolnshire  
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Dear Mrs Hunt

### **Ofsted visit to Bluecoat Meres Primary Academy**

Following my visit with Roary Pownall, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 15 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 chief executive officer of the trust, the director of academy improvement, the assistant headteacher, the leader with responsibility for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the leader with responsibility for personal, social and health education (PSHE), and an administration assistant. 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 pupils on 7 September 2020. Pupils in Year 1 attended on a part-time basis for two days. Children in the Reception Year attended on a part-time basis until 21 September.
- Pupils' attendance is slightly lower than is usual for this time of year. Staff are working closely with families and the local authority to improve the attendance of a very small number of pupils.
- Pupils are studying all the subjects that they usually do. Pupils are currently unable to have swimming lessons. Leaders plan to return pupils fully to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have made checks to find out if there are any gaps in pupils' knowledge in English and mathematics. They are using this information to plan lessons and additional support to help pupils who have gaps in their learning.
- Teachers have identified some gaps in pupils' vocabulary, phonic knowledge and comprehension skills when they are reading. Staff are providing support in these aspects of reading for pupils who need it.

- In mathematics, teachers have noticed that some pupils are finding it difficult to bring important mathematical information and vocabulary to mind quickly. Staff are providing extra help for the pupils who need to be able to do this more readily.
- Teachers have prioritised personal, social and health education (PSHE). In other subjects, teachers are including some of the content that pupils might have missed last year when they are planning their current lessons.
- Teachers have prepared packs of work for pupils to complete at home if they need to take time off school because of COVID-19. Leaders are developing an online platform for pupils in Years 5 and 6 to use at home, should this be needed in the future.

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 and the chief executive officer of the West Grantham Academies, the director of education for the diocese of Lincolnshire, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Lincolnshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Di Mullan  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**