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5 November 2020

Lisa Taylor  
Headteacher  
Martenscroft Nursery School & Children's Centre  
33 Epping Street  
Hulme  
Manchester  
Lancashire  
M15 6PA

Dear Ms Taylor

### **Ofsted visit to Martenscroft Nursery School & Children's Centre**

Following my visit with Sue Eastwood, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 6 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 and the senior leadership team. 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 its doors to all children on 3 September 2020 on a part-time basis. From 21 September 2020, all children aged three years and over were expected to attend full time. Children aged two years old continue to attend school on a part-time basis.
- Children's attendance is broadly in line with the attendance rates for this time of the year.
- Children, including those not attending school, are studying their usual curriculum. They access all seven areas of learning in the early years foundation stage.
- Staff have assessed children's starting points in learning to read and in early mathematics across the school. Staff have not noticed any differences in children's knowledge from what they would normally expect for this time of the year.
- Children's knowledge in the other areas of learning has also been checked by staff. They have noticed that children's readiness to learn is similar to that of past cohorts. You explained that at the start of the academic year, you always prioritise children's social, communication and language development. This continues to be the case this year.
- You have developed systems to provide remote learning to children if needed. You have worked with parents and carers so that they can use the resources confidently. You believe that the school is ready to deliver the full curriculum

to all children if they are not able to attend school due to further lockdown restrictions.

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 Manchester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Julie Barlow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**