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Sonia Schofield
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Schofield

Ofsted visit to Whissendine Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Helen Williams, 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 with you, the designated safeguarding lead, a member of the senior leadership team and the school office manager. 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:

- You opened the school to all pupils on 1 September 2020. Pupils attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is in line with that usually seen at this time of year.
- Pupils are not studying some parts of the music curriculum. There are some aspects of the physical education curriculum which pupils are not studying. You are planning for pupils to return to the school's usual curriculum before the end of the academic year.
- Teachers checked what pupils could remember when they returned to school. Some pupils have fallen behind in phonics, reading and grammar. Leaders have made sure that pupils receive support where they need to catch up.
- In mathematics, teachers have identified gaps in some pupils' number and calculation skills. Pupils are receiving support to help fill these gaps.
- Pupils continue to study all subjects in the wider curriculum. Teachers are checking what pupils know and understand. You are confident that teachers will provide enough opportunities for pupils to cover the content that they missed when they were not at school.
- Leaders have developed plans to deliver the curriculum remotely if needed. You have made sure that curriculum plans are closely matched to what pupils would learn if they were 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 board of trustees, and the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the director of education for the diocese of Peterborough, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Rutland. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Damien Turrell
Her Majesty's Inspector