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Jo Williams
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Williams

Ofsted visit to Wilson's Endowed Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Tim Vaughan, 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 met with you. 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 1 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Pupils' current rate of attendance is similar to what it was this time last year.
- You explained that all subjects in the national curriculum are being taught, apart from a modern foreign language. You have taken this decision to allow more time for pupils' personal, social, health and economic education. You aim to return to the full curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have checked where pupils are up to in learning to read. You told us that pupils in Years 1 and 2 have forgotten some important knowledge in phonics. You aim to help them catch up through small-group work and individual help.
- You told us that children currently in the Reception year missed some of their pre-school learning. You are providing more opportunities for these children to develop their social and communication skills.
- Since September, pupils have spent time in mathematics lessons revisiting their learning in number and place value. Teachers have picked up that older pupils need more time and support to regain their fluency with number facts, particularly their multiplication tables.
- In other subjects, you have identified the learning that some pupils have missed or forgotten in the summer term. Teachers are amending their plans to include this learning in future activities.

- Teachers have developed their expertise in delivering remote education. You explained that staff are maintaining pupils' familiarity with this system by using it to set homework. Should it be needed, you believe that teachers are well placed to ensure that pupils continue to learn while they are at home.

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 director of education for the diocese of Blackburn and the director of children's services for Lancashire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Garry White
Her Majesty's Inspector