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Andy Kitchen
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Kitchen

Ofsted remote visit to Stafford Leys Community Primary School

Following my remote visit with Damien Turrell, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 5 November 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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 three deputy headteachers. We did not speak to pupils.

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 26 August 2020. Pupils attend full time.
- Attendance is slightly above that typically seen at this point in the school year.
- Pupils are studying the school's usual range of subjects. Leaders have moved some parts of the physical education (PE) curriculum to later in the school year, such as swimming and gymnastics. Leaders have adapted the music curriculum so that pupils spend more time listening to and appreciating different types of music.
- Teachers have assessed all pupils in reading. Some older pupils are less confident than they previously were in gaining meaning from the books they read. Leaders have organised virtual author visits to help improve pupils' comprehension skills.
- Some younger pupils have forgotten some of their knowledge in phonics. Leaders are making sure that these pupils receive extra support and regular reading sessions.

- In mathematics, teachers' checks have shown that some pupils have forgotten the knowledge they need to explain how to solve problems. Leaders are providing staff with training to address this.
- Across the wider curriculum, leaders are prioritising pupils' physical health and well-being. They recognise that some pupils' fitness levels have dropped. In PE lessons, pupils have more opportunities to exercise and get fit.
- Leaders have developed online learning for pupils who are self-isolating. Pupils learn the same curriculum at home as they would in school. Leaders provide electronic equipment to some families so that they can access this learning.

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 Bradgate Education Partnership, 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