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30 November 2020

David Kiss  
Headteacher  
The Priory Centre  
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Wakefield  
West Yorkshire  
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Dear Mr Kiss

### **Ofsted remote visit to The Priory Centre**

Following my remote visit with Kirsty Godfrey, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 12 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 (coronavirus) 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 the senior leader responsible for safeguarding. 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 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:**

- A small group of pupils in Years 7 to 9 are isolating. This is the first 'bubble' you have sent home since the school opened fully to pupils on 9 September 2020.
- All pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. You explained that you have made some changes to your physical education lessons due to the closure of community sports venues. However, you expect to build these opportunities into the curriculum later in the school year.
- Teachers have checked primary pupils' phonics knowledge. Secondary teachers have checked pupils' reading skills and vocabulary. You explained that teachers are using this assessment information to address identified gaps.
- Across the school, teachers have checked pupils' new starting points in mathematics. You told us that pupils are following their normal mathematics curriculum.
- In the wider primary and secondary curriculums, for subjects such as history and science, teachers have made plans for each pupil to catch up on lost

learning. You explained that it is normal in your school for pupils to have lessons personalised for their individual needs.

- Teachers are setting paper-based work for all pupils who are unable to attend school. You told us that staff are doing home visits to deliver lesson materials and to collect pupils' work. You explained that the work you send home matches the school's curriculums.
- Pupils access online learning from links teachers have put on your school's website. You are looking to expand your use of technology for remote learning. However, you said that you will continue to send paper-based work home as needed.

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

Yours sincerely

Patricia Head  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**