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Stuart Evans
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Dear Mr Evans

Ofsted remote visit to New Leaf Centre

Following my remote visit with Mark Sims, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 25 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, the senior leadership team/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 number of pupils have, for varying periods of time, had to work from home since the start of term.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. However, leaders have made some adaptations to the physical education (PE) curriculum as pupils are unable to access some indoor specialist facilities for PE. Leaders plan to have all pupils to return to their usual curriculum content by summer term 2021.
- Due to the pandemic, pupils have been unable to participate in their usual range of extra-curricular activities, such as museum visits.
- In the primary classes, pupils are continuing with their English and mathematics curriculum as normal. They are spending the same amount of time learning English and mathematics as they would usually do.
- Teachers continue to carry out their usual assessments in English and mathematics to find out what pupils know and can do. The school continues in its usual way to check on how pupils are getting on with their learning in other subjects.
- Pupils in secondary classes are following their usual curriculum. The oldest pupils are continuing to study the same examination subjects that they opted for before the pandemic. All pupils are accessing, as normal, the range of support services to help them attend school and learn.
- In the event of pupils having to work remotely, the school has plans in place to deliver almost all of the usual curriculum, except PE. This would be

through a blended approach of paper-based and online materials. Leaders intend to match the curriculum content as close as possible to that which would normally be taught 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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Walsall. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hill
Her Majesty's Inspector