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Mr S Ruffe
The Headteacher
Galampton Church of England Primary School
Greenway Road
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Dear Mr Ruffe

Ofsted Monitoring of Grade 3 Schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when Janet Brennan HMI and I inspected your school on Tuesday 3 July 2007, for the time you gave to our telephone discussions, and for the information you provided before and during the visit. Please pass my particular thanks to the pupils, staff, governors and the local authority representative who talked to us during the day.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 7 and 8 June 2006, the school was asked to:

- develop the way in which it monitors and evaluates teaching, learning and achievement and use the outcomes to plan effectively to raise standards and increase the rate of progress pupils make
- use assessment information to set clear targets for pupils and ensure that they know what to do to reach these
- ensure that staff with new areas to manage receive the support they require to fulfil their responsibilities.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that, at this time, the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievements.

The school is making more effective use of published performance data and optional and national test results from Year 2 to Year 6 to analyse the progress which pupils are making. The school is far more aware of pupils who are not making the expected rate of progress and, because of the range of data it now has, it is better placed to

analyse the reasons for this and intervene to tackle underperformance. The work of the assessment coordinator has contributed very effectively to the progress already made in this area. Governors have gained a much clearer knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibility for monitoring the school's work. Increasingly, they are involved in school self-evaluation, particularly through their scrutiny of performance data.

Progress in monitoring and evaluating teaching and learning has been more limited. Although observations of teaching take place, these are not part of a systematic, regular cycle of evaluation which feeds into improvement planning. Because the school does not have a sufficiently robust knowledge of strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning, it is not well placed to secure further improvements and to focus its energies to make the most impact. Although there are suitable plans for joint lesson observations with the local authority to ensure that judgements about teaching and learning are accurate, these have not yet been implemented.

Teachers now have a more comprehensive understanding of pupils' attainment and progress and, increasingly, they are using this to plan their teaching. Their understanding of the range of needs in their classes has improved. However, their understanding of how to set clear targets and help pupils to reach them is patchy. This is reflected in pupils' understanding of what they need to do to improve. Pupils know more about their targets in English than in mathematics. Furthermore, targets are not always written in language which is easy for pupils to understand and so it is difficult for them to know what they need to do to reach them. Target setting is undeveloped in other subjects.

Staff with new areas to manage are clear about their roles. They have received good training, and time has been allocated to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. The school has been without a deputy headteacher since before last year's inspection and so progress in some key areas has not been as swift as it should have been. An appointment has been made with effect from September 2007 and plans have been put in place to ensure that the new postholder makes a substantial contribution to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school, particularly teaching and learning.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

David Humphries
Her Majesty's Inspector