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2 October 2007

Mr C Thorpe  
The Headteacher  
Keresley Grange Primary School  
Waste Lane  
Coventry  
West Midlands  
CV6 2EH

Dear Mr Thorpe

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when Roy Bowers HMI and I inspected your school on 20 September 2007, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during our visit. Please pass on our thanks to your senior team, the local authority and pupils for their help and support.

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 21 and 22 June 2006, the school was asked to: improve achievement by raising the standard of all teaching to that of the best in the school, particularly in terms of the challenge for the more capable pupils; improve the quality of strategic planning so that issues can be dealt with more urgency; and, take more robust steps to improve attendance.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing two of the issues: raising the standards of teaching; and, improving attendance; but inadequate progress in improving the quality of strategic planning. Progress overall therefore is inadequate and remains an area of concern. I am recommending a revisit.

The school has made satisfactory progress to improve achievement by raising the standard of all teaching to that of the best in the school. Recent teaching appointments have created a renewed sense of energy and a stronger consistency of teaching quality across the school. There is great potential for continued improvement. All teachers were observed. The majority of lessons were satisfactory or better with over one third good or better, an increase since the last inspection. Strengths included secure classroom management, planning for a variety of tasks, and good relationships with pupils. Some lessons, however, still did not have enough

challenge, especially for the more able pupils and often learning objectives were insufficiently focused on measurable learning gains.

The progress made since the inspection to improve pupils' attendance has also been satisfactory. Attendance figures provided by the education welfare officer (EWO) demonstrate that attendance has improved from 93.3% in 2005–06 to 94.3% in 2006–07, only 0.54% below the school's Coventry target. Good support has been provided by the EWO and the school has adopted a range of their own strategies to support good attendance. Early morning calls to non arrivals, and an Early Bird initiative have improved attendance. Class attendance is celebrated in weekly assemblies and a coveted soft toy awarded to the highest attending class. Two learning mentors have been appointed by the school and there are plans to start a breakfast club targeted at identified those with poor attendance. Parents have been informed of the impact of poor attendance on standards and some applications for holidays in term time have been rejected.

Despite the satisfactory progress made with the above two issues, there has been inadequate progress with the third issue: to improve the quality of strategic planning so that issues can be dealt with more urgency. The headteacher is aware that he requires further support to draft a concise strategic plan that identifies the key issues that will raise standards in the school. Since the June 2006 inspection, strategic planning has not received a high enough profile and, as such, progress with this issue remains a serious concern. The local authority has provided regular support for the school but, as yet, this has not included specific support for strategic planning. It remains the case that the strategic plan is a large document that lacks cohesion, and is not sufficiently focused on the outcomes of self-evaluation.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clive Kempton".

Clive Kempton  
Her Majesty's Inspector