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Mr Stephen Cornforth
Headteacher
Willington Primary School
Chapel Street
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Dear Mr Cornforth

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 12 November 2009 and for the information which you provided before and during my visit.

As a result of the inspection on 2 and 3 October 2008, the school was asked to ensure that pupils' work fully matches their capabilities, establish a more diverse and stimulating curriculum to strengthen pupils' basic skills and knowledge of the wider world, and ensure greater rigour when analysing and monitoring the school's development at all levels of management.

Since the inspection, a new chair of governors has been appointed, one teacher has left and has been replaced by a newly qualified teacher.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

The match between pupils' work and their capabilities has improved. Work is more effectively differentiated to cater for the wide ability range and well above average number of pupils with special educational needs. Pupils are achieving more highly and making better progress in English and mathematics. Attainment is rising, for example, more pupils are gaining Level 4+ and Level 5+ results in Year 5 in their

assessments. A revised tracking system is effectively identifying underachievement and making sure pupils receive the support they need.

Changes to the curriculum are helping to improve pupils' basic skills. There is a stronger emphasis on developing literacy and numeracy, for example through investigations carried out during science week. Knowledge of the wider world is expanding because links between subjects and with local business are providing relevant contexts for learning. The amount of time given to guided reading has increased and staff have received training in the use of new resources. Other modifications to the curriculum include separate individual programmes for underachieving pupils in Year 3 and Year 4.

The analysis and monitoring of the school's development and performance have improved. A yearly cycle of monitoring has been established. Outcomes are mapped well to the school improvement plan and the impact of action taken regularly evaluated. A good range of monitoring activities such as book and work scrutiny is sharply focused on achievement and progress. The purpose of monitoring is understood by managers at all levels and all senior leaders are fully involved.

Local authority support for the school has made a good impact and helped to drive improvement. For example, literacy and numeracy coordinators have improved their monitoring skills as a result of joint observations with local authority consultants. The School Improvement Partner is working closely with the headteacher to ensure the school continues to move in the right direction.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hancock
Her Majesty's Inspector