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11 December 2012

Mr Andy Willett  
Headteacher  
Springfield Primary School  
Springwood Crescent  
Grimsby  
Lincolnshire  
DN33 3HG

Dear Mr Willett

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Springfield Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 10 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, three members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated along with other key school documents, including lesson observation records.

#### **Context**

There have been no significant changes since the recent inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

#### **Main findings**

The headteacher, senior leaders, staff and governors are keen to bring about improvement in order to provide pupils with a good education. The school improvement plan has been rewritten to take account of the inspection findings. Although the most important areas for improvement are addressed the plan does not address all of the areas connected to improving achievement in writing. The improvement plan identifies clear success criteria but does not always identify milestones over time. The arrangements for checking on the impact of planned actions do not always specify who or how checks will be made.

Self-evaluation, including the evaluation of lessons, has identified explicitly where most support and improvement is needed. Consequently, senior leaders have been able to prioritise where additional help, guidance and support are needed. Lessons are evaluated regularly and a round of lesson observations has recently been completed. Lesson observations generally identify strengths along with questions to promote improvement. There is scope to more clearly evaluate the impact of teaching on pupils' learning and to identify more explicitly where improvements are needed.

Staff training, linked directly to some areas for improvement, has taken place and senior leaders' evaluations are that this is having a positive impact. A new electronic system to track the attainment and progress of students has been introduced. The use of this is in its infancy but offers good potential for analysing trends and patterns across the school.

Governors are committed to bringing about improvement. A positive step has been the establishment of a committee of governors with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the school improvement plan. Some members of this committee have begun to visit the school more formally to work with senior leaders to check on the implementation of plans. However, the improvement plan does not identify exactly what information will be presented to this committee, when or by whom. The headteacher's termly report to the governing body provides them with a range of useful information, including the most recent assessment outcomes along with a summary of the evaluations of the lessons observed. However, governors are not routinely provided with information from the tracking of pupils' attainment across all year groups.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- improve the school improvement plan so that it addresses explicitly how the school will improve achievement in writing
- within the school improvement plan identify clear milestones along with how and who will check on the impact of planned improvements
- in order that the governors' school improvement plan committee are able to evaluate the school's progress identify what information will be provided to them, when and by whom
- ensure that written records of lesson evaluations evaluate more clearly the link between the work of the teacher and pupils' learning and provide more explicit guidance on how to improve teaching and learning.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

## **External support**

Senior leaders are engaging well with the local authority. The local authority advisor has supported the rewriting of the school improvement plan. Specific support has been provided through the 'instructional rounds' programme, which looked closely at the classroom impact of staff training on the use of assessment information. The local authority has identified another school which could provide useful support and guidance in order to maintain improvements to teaching.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for North East Lincolnshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Amraz Ali

## **Her Majesty's Inspector**

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese - for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.