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8 February 2013

Mr Clive Evans  
Headteacher  
Deddington Church of England Primary School  
Earls Lane  
Banbury  
OX15 0TJ

Dear Mr Evans

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

Following my visit to your school on 7 February 2013, 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 November 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the Chair and other members of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement action plan was evaluated.

#### **Context**

Since the inspection a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body have been appointed. There is a new teacher in the Foundation Stage to replace one who left.

#### **Main findings**

The school has responded positively to the points for improvement identified by the recent inspection report. The headteacher and other senior leaders have focused more closely on improving the consistency and quality of teaching and to ensure that, even in a short time, the rate of pupils' progress is being accelerated, especially

in Key Stage 1. There is a tighter focus on teachers' planning and expectations to ensure that pupils of average and low ability make better progress in lessons and over time. There are more rigorous procedures for ensuring pupils are developing their punctuation and writing skills and there are more opportunities for pupils to practise their mathematical skills. All of these initiatives have begun to have a positive impact on the work of the school, although more time is needed to ensure that assessment and tracking procedures are embedded consistently well in all classes. The school has reviewed its rules relating to behaviour in and around the school and ensured that all staff understand how to apply them more consistently.

The new Chair of the Governing Body has sought external training to help all governors improve their skills in challenging and holding the school to account. Governors have begun to adopt better procedures for checking the quality of teaching and the rate of pupils' progress. There are sound plans for improving the quality of Governors' communications with parents. These are positive early steps but governors need to strengthen further their involvement in, and evaluation of, school development planning.

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:

- ensure that the more rigorous assessment and tracking procedures are adopted consistently well by all staff.
- undertake regular evaluations of the school action and monitoring plans so that all staff and governors have a clear picture of how well the initiatives to improve teaching and achievement are being embedded.
- ensure that planned training for governors strengthens the Governing Body's role in holding the school to account.

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

### **External support**

Following a period where the school received light touch support on the basis of its previously good results, the local authority has put in place a more effective package of support, especially for improving results in Key Stage 1. The local authority has brokered the support of a National Leader for Education who is currently the headteacher of an outstanding primary school, to act as the school's new improvement partner. He is already making a positive impact on the work of the school.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Oxfordshire and the Director of Education for the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education.

Yours sincerely

Peter Limm  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**