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17 June 2013

Karen Minnis  
Headteacher  
Bromley Road Infant School  
St George's Road  
Beckenham  
BR3 5JG

Dear Ms Minnis

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Bromley Road Infant School**

Following my visit to your school on 17 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and your deputy, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority and an external consultant, to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Brief visits were made to classrooms to look at the impact of the actions which the school has taken since the previous inspection. A range of documentation was reviewed, including records of observations of lessons, information showing pupils' progress, records showing coaching and support provided to improve the quality of teaching and results of an external review of the school.

## **Context**

Since the previous inspection the appointment of a new deputy headteacher has strengthened the leadership team. Plans have been agreed for the school to become a primary school from September 2014.

## **Main findings**

The school improvement plan addresses all the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan includes clear and relevant actions and has sensible timescales and success criteria for judging progress. However, the plan would benefit from more detail about exactly how and when governing body and other partners will check that the school's actions are making a difference to improving the quality of teaching and pupils' learning.

The school commissioned an external review to establish a reliable baseline from which future progress can be measured. Governors have produced a governors' action plan which is closely aligned with the school action plan. Governors are becoming more actively involved in observing the school's work and are developing closer links with staff and pupils. Workshops for parents are being provided so that they are better able to support their children's learning.

Teachers have had training and support to help them improve their practice. The outcomes of each series of classroom observations are recorded using a computer-based system and the school can track accurately improvements in teaching over time. Following observation of their lessons, teachers are given helpful feedback about what is working well and advice on how to improve further. The school has planned for teachers to visit other schools to observe outstanding practice. The impact of the coaching and professional development provided to staff can be seen in improvements in pupils' progress and attainment.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- establish a review group to check regularly the impact of the actions being taken to improve the school.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

## **External support**

The school acted swiftly to commission support from a consultant from another London borough. Advisers from the local authority are working with the school, particularly in literacy and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Support from a Local Leader in Education has been brokered to assist in implementing the school's improvement plan. The local authority conducted a review of the support it provides and has commissioned a school improvement officer to help the school judge further progress towards becoming a good school. The school has planned for the support provided by external consultants to be coordinated so that it has maximum impact on accelerating improvement and provides consistent messages to staff.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Bromley.

Yours sincerely

Robert Ellis

**Her Majesty's Inspector**