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8 July 2013

Georgina Earl  
Runcton Holme Church of England Primary School  
School Road  
Runcton Holme  
King's Lynn  
PE33 0EL

Dear Mrs Earl

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Runcton Holme Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 5 July 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, English and mathematics curriculum leaders, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. A range of information was reviewed, including data concerning pupils' attainment and progress, and the school's improvement plans. Visits were made to three lessons.

### **Main findings**

Teachers have improved the quality of the marking of pupils' work to provide feedback on how they might do better. This improvement is however not consistent. Some feedback is still too broad to give pupils a clear understanding about what they need to do to improve and teachers do not always comment on pupils' further work following their earlier marking.

There has been training regarding the use of phonics to improve reading and spelling with a consequent improvement to teaching. School leaders have identified further actions to ensure the use of phonics throughout the school.

Teachers have worked closely with colleagues from their federated school and with local authority curriculum specialists to ensure the accuracy of their assessment of pupils' attainments. This has provided a secure basis for setting work at just the right level for each pupil and for monitoring their progress. School leaders are now able to identify if there are dips in areas of pupils' achievement, including for groups at risk of underachievement. They investigate these areas further by using a wider range of evidence including the scrutiny of pupils work and teachers' planning and the observation of lessons. Further work is planned to make sure the baseline assessment of pupils entering the school next term is also rigorous and accurate.

Detailed tracking shows exactly how much progress is being made and whether they are on track to achieve their targets. These targets are rightly set with high aspiration, above the expected level of progress for their age. School leaders are aware that in order to evaluate their effectiveness they must compare this information with nationally available data.

The school's action plan following the inspection in February is fit for purpose and helpfully identifies the intended impact of actions on improving pupils' learning. The plan is routinely evaluated and updated; however evaluation sometimes does not focus sufficiently on whether the intended improvement in pupils' learning has taken place.

Governors have increased their effectiveness in supporting the school's development by gaining a greater understanding of how well pupils are learning and the impact of the changes that are being made.

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:

- ensure all marking and feedback provides helpful feedback
- develop the use of phonics to improve reading and spelling throughout the school
- improve planning through action plans for English and mathematics that are coordinated with one another and linked to the whole school improvement plan

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

## **External support**

The local authority has provided very good support and has an accurate understanding of the school's improvement. The visiting education adviser monitors developments very closely and sets high expectations for further work. She has very helpfully brokered support for the school from leading practitioners and advisers in the area.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Norfolk and Ely Diocese.

Yours sincerely

Charlie Henry  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**