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25 September 2013

Ms Lorna McIsaac  
Headteacher  
Pensford Primary School  
Pensford Hill  
Pensford  
Bristol  
BS39 4AA

Dear Ms McIsaac

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Pensford Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 24 September 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 June 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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

- simplify existing plans and systems so that they are sharply focused on achieving consistently good progress for pupils across the school
- develop a differentiated approach improving the quality of teaching so that all teachers have the support and feedback they require to improve their practice
- introduce a clear monitoring strategy that enables the senior leaders and the governing body to systematically evaluate the impact of improvements on a regular basis.

### **Evidence**

During the visit I met with you to discuss the context of the school and your work since the inspection. You showed me around your school and explained your recent and planned developments. I also met with three members of the governing body and a representative from the local authority. During the visit, I also evaluated reports from the local authority and the school improvement plan.

### **Main findings**

You have acted swiftly since the inspection to begin to address the issues identified in your inspection report. You have raised expectations of pupil progress so that all pupils are now targeted to make at least good progress. You have introduced the new whole school 'Bubble' approach intended to promote pupils' positive attitudes to learning. Comprehensive school improvement plans have been produced with a defined timetable and clear milestones.

The governing body has taken the findings of the inspection report seriously and have already increased the level of data considered at their meetings. Governors have undertaken training to improve their own skills and are rightly focusing their attention on improving the quality of teaching in 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. I will return to the school shortly to work with senior leaders on the monitoring and evaluation aspects of their plans.

### **External support**

The school is making effective use of the support on offer from the local authority. The local authority have increased the level of support the school is receiving so that it now includes regular monitoring meetings that judge the school's progress in terms of pupil progress.

As the school was already in receipt of local authority support prior to the inspection, it will be important to monitor its impact to ensure that it supports rapid improvement within the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**