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14 October 2013

Mary Foreman  
Headteacher  
Dogsthorpe Junior School  
Central Avenue  
Dogsthorpe  
Peterborough  
PE1 4LH

Dear Mrs Foreman

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Dogsthorpe Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 11 October 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in June 2013.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

#### **Context**

Since June 2013, five teachers have left the school and you have appointed seven new teachers and two higher-level teaching assistants. The Chair of the Governing Body and three governors have left the governing body. A new Chair of Governors has been appointed, as well as three new governors.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

You have started to address the points for improvement identified at the last inspection. For example, you are introducing a more rigorous system for checking the progress made by individuals and different groups of pupils. This is raising the ambition that you have for all pupils and should ensure that you are better able to tackle any underachievement promptly. You are also improving the quality of transition between the infant school and your school to enable the Year 3 pupils to make better progress than in the past. In response to the last inspection's findings about weaknesses in teaching, you have made alterations to the way teachers plan and organise lessons. You are doing this to raise the quality of learning when pupils are working independently. However, it is clear, both from my short visits to lessons and from a report made by a local authority officer, that these changes have yet to tackle this issue successfully as pupils are not yet consistently working well without the direct supervision of the teacher. You are also now conducting regular lesson observations. Currently, the feedback given to teachers following these observations is not focused sharply enough on how well pupils are learning and does not provide teachers with enough guidance to help them teach more effectively in the future.

The school's action plan addresses all of the areas highlighted as weaknesses at the last inspection. It includes challenging targets linked to pupils' achievement and the quality of teaching. However, it is an excessively long and detailed document and this limits its usefulness. The plan does not sharply show who will monitor and evaluate its impact.

New appointments of individuals with plenty of experience of education and leadership have strengthened the governing body. Governors have applied to the Secretary of State to restructure to a smaller interim executive board. The board will include senior members of the local authority. During this period of transition, governors are providing you and other senior leaders with appropriate challenge and support.

Following the previous inspection, the local authority helped the school appoint a new Chair and held a 'Challenge' meeting to ensure full engagement of school leaders. It also produced a statement of action; this is detailed and brings a significant range of expertise to support improvement. Initial support is intensive and well focused. A Monitoring and Support Partnership Group has been established to track and evaluate the school's progress against the plan. This has yet to meet.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The local authority statement of action is fit for purpose.

The school's improvement plan is not fit for purpose.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Peterborough and as below. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Prue Rayner  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**