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13 February 2014

John Dodd  
Headteacher  
Manners Sutton Primary School  
Newark Road  
Averham  
Newark  
NG23 5QZ

Dear Mr Dodd

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Manners Sutton Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 12 February 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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.

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection and plans are not sharply focused on rapidly bringing about improvement. The school should take immediate action to:

- re-write the action plan so that it effectively addresses all the areas for improvement as identified by your recent inspection
- ensure the revised plan is shared with all members of staff and governors, so that everyone understands their personal involvement in improving the school
- undertake the actions listed in the revised plan, and build on those positive actions already taken.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, three members of the governing body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school improvement plan. You took me on a tour of the school and we visited each class.

## **Main findings**

You, in collaboration with the governing body and a representative of the local authority, amended the school action plan after your recent inspection. However, while some of the areas for improvement are included, several are either unclear or missing. This has contributed to a lack of activity towards addressing all the actions required to improve the school. Your current plan is not fit for purpose and it needs to be re-written as a matter of urgency.

You have improved your teachers' understanding of data. Pupils are now assessed more regularly and meetings to discuss the progress of pupils take place more often. Where underachievement is identified, teachers are directed to make plans to address this. It is too early to judge the impact of this on pupils' progress, though the information and systems are improved.

Improvements are evident in marking, though these are not consistent across the school. Pupils need to be given more time to respond to teachers' helpful comments, when they are made.

Your teachers have benefited from training which outlined the qualities seen in good and outstanding teaching. Your lead teachers in literacy and numeracy have extended their leadership responsibilities by undertaking lesson observations, though their roles still require development.

Teachers have begun to have discussions and share practice with those from a similar, local school; this group are currently considering how best to develop pupils' thinking skills. It is too early to judge the impact of this collaboration.

There is much work to be done in challenging your most-able pupils and in providing opportunities for pupils to develop their mathematical skills via practical activities, solving problems and in other subjects.

You have helped governors to better understand the school's data relating to pupil progress; further training is planned in this regard. The governors recently completed a comprehensive skills audit of their members. Based on the findings, committees have been re-formed to suit individuals' areas of expertise. Governors are now fully aware of the shortcomings in the school action plan; they are committed to contributing to a revised plan that is fit for purpose, as well as ensuring that the plan is implemented.

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

I intend to visit the school again in the summer term of 2014.

### **External support**

The advice given by the local authority to the school with regards to action planning was unhelpful. The new local authority representative is aware of the reasons for this and he is committed to assisting the school in this regard. He has created a 'partnership plan' to extend and build on the relationship between your school and your neighbouring school. Local authority support is also planned via joint lesson observations and analysis of pupil progress data.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian McNeilly  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**