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25 April 2014

Mrs K Russell  
The Headteacher  
Newtown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School  
Queen's Road  
Gosport  
Hampshire  
PO12 1JD

Dear Mrs Russell

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Newtown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 24 April, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and 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 most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in December 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection I met with you, your deputy headteachers, the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated. We briefly visited lessons around the school to see teaching and learning.

#### **Context**

Since the previous inspection there have been significant staffing changes. Three teachers have left the school, and one is on maternity leave. Two newly qualified teachers have very recently joined the school. A deputy headteacher has been seconded to the school for two days a week from a local good school.

You have temporarily rearranged some teachers' responsibilities to ensure that there is minimum disruption to pupils' learning.

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

You, your senior leaders and governors have responded very positively to the findings of the previous inspection report. Your action plan is clearly focused on tackling the key areas for improvement. It includes appropriate interim and longer term targets for the quality of teaching and pupils' achievement. These targets enable you and the governors to check whether plans are on track and evaluate your actions and adjust them as needed.

Teachers are being provided with suitable support and development opportunities to enable them to improve their teaching, including the teaching of phonics and writing. Extra support and challenge are provided to tackle teaching which is not improving quickly enough. You are now checking the quality of teaching more rigorously; as a result, you are clearer about the impact of the approaches you are taking and the areas that need further attention. We saw that these approaches are starting to have a positive effect in the lessons visited. Pupils were motivated and engaged and talked articulately about their learning. Your 'non-negotiable' expectations for all teachers in all lessons were clearly evident. Work was better matched to individual pupils' ability, and pupils were increasingly being given the opportunity to write at length. Pupils are not yet always given time to respond to written feedback and you recognise the need to address this.

The local authority's statement of action sets out clearly how the school is being monitored and held to account. A local authority officer works effectively with you to ensure that the support provided meets the school's needs. English and mathematics advisers supporting teachers' planning and staff attending moderation meetings and the support from the local authority early years team are examples of this. The local authority has carried out an external review of governance. The review recognised the governing body's existing strengths and identified some areas for improvement which are being addressed. Governors are questioning and challenging you more effectively and they now have the information they need to hold you and senior staff to account. They are enjoying being actively involved in the monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made.

- The school's action plan is fit for purpose.
- The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

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

Yours sincerely

Diana Choulerton

**Her Majesty's Inspector**