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12 September 2014

Ms Elaine Robertson  
The Interim Headteacher  
Kobi Nazrul Primary School  
Settles Street  
Stepney  
London  
E1 1JP

Dear Ms Robertson

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Kobi Nazrul Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 11 September 2014, 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 inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in June 2014.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the interim headteacher, Chair of the Interim Executive Board, representatives of the local authority and groups of staff. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the section 5 inspection the governing body has been replaced by an interim executive board. A consultant headteacher was appointed to increase the school's leadership capacity. She was asked to take over the day-to-day running of the school as interim headteacher from September 2014 to cover the headteacher's absence. At present it is not known how long this arrangement will last. Two teachers joined the school at the start of this term.

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

Following publication of the inspection report in July 2014 the local authority acted swiftly to introduce an interim executive board. Members of the board include an experienced adviser from the Department for Education, a former chief executive of Tower Hamlets Borough Council, the headteacher of an outstanding school, the senior local authority officer responsible for learning and achievement and an experienced lawyer. Members of the board have significant experience in governance and school leadership and are working alongside the local authority to secure improvements in the school.

The local authority has drawn up a comprehensive action plan identifying how it will support the school over coming months. This plan identifies appropriate and timely actions addressing the areas for improvement from the inspection report. Due to the lack of capacity in school leadership at the time of the inspection, the local authority has planned very high levels of support in the first instance. This includes the deployment of the interim headteacher. The impact of the local authority's support will be measured through regular meetings involving local authority officers, members of the interim executive board, and senior leaders. When the school plan is finalised, key professionals from both the school and the local authority will need to ensure that improvement activity and the targets set in their plans are closely aligned.

The interim executive board held meetings with parents and carers before the end of the summer term to inform them of changes made in the school and plans for improvement. The board has arranged further meetings throughout the coming months to ensure that parents remain informed and their views are taken into account. The board also organised activities to take place during the summer holiday for two year groups.

In the few days since taking on responsibility for the running of the school as interim headteacher, you have correctly identified appropriate priorities. Matters of urgency, such as increasing the security of pupils at break times, have already been addressed. You have quickly familiarised yourself with the strengths and weaknesses of the school and drawn up a draft plan outlining improvements that need to be made and actions that will be taken to address these. You have identified who will be responsible for leading each action. The actions link closely to the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report. A timetable for the implementation of these changes has also been proposed. You have not yet identified who will check that these actions have taken place, when checks will happen, or how the impact of the changes will be evaluated.

You have ensured that all pupils have been assessed at the start of the academic year, and their level of attainment recorded. This information has been checked to make sure it is secure, and provides a starting point from which progress can be measured.

Members of staff report that they are consulted about the many changes that are happening in the school. They say that a clear direction has been set by leaders, and that they are kept informed. They can identify an increasingly structured approach to school improvement.

The external review of pupil premium spending, recommended in the inspection report, has been completed and you are incorporating the recommendations made into the school action plan.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

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

The school's action 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 and the Director of Children's Services for Tower Hamlets. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Gaynor Roberts  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**