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19 May 2014

Mrs Sue Meek  
Headteacher  
Walmore Hill Primary School  
Walmore Hill  
Gloucester  
GL2 8LA

Dear Mrs Meek

### **Special measures monitoring inspection of Walmore Hill Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 16 May 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 January 2014.

#### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher, a member of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated.

#### **Context**

The context of the school has remained stable since the inspection. A replacement for the headteacher, whose retirement was planned before the inspection, is being sought. The governing body is currently seeking an executive headteacher for September 2014. The local authority is working closely with the school to manage this transition.

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

With the support of the local authority, the school has produced a raising achievement plan, which matches closely the weaknesses identified in the inspection. Actions have been well planned with measureable outcomes. A committee to monitor the school's progress has been established. The committee has carried out its first evaluation of actions since the school was judged to require special measures. The committee judges that the school has made limited progress since January 2014. The headteacher is undertaking a range of activities aimed at improving the quality of teaching in the school. At present, these do not focus strongly enough on eliminating inadequate teaching and tackling the weaker aspects of current practice.

The governing body has focused on the appointment of an executive headteacher for September 2014. However, it has not given enough attention to tackling the weaknesses in the school. Consequently, the school has made limited progress since being inspected. The external review of governance is under way but has yet to impact on the practice of the governing body. The external review of the school's use of the pupil premium is planned for later in the year.

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

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

The school's action plans are fit for purpose.

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

To strengthen existing plans, the school should:

- clarify the quality of teaching targets so that governors can regularly monitor and evaluate improvements
- rigorously tackle the weaknesses in teaching and clarify expectations of teachers' planning and use of assessment.

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

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**