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3 July 2013

Mrs Elaine Stiles  
Headteacher  
Cherry Willingham Community School  
Croft Lane  
Cherry Willingham  
Lincoln  
LN3 4JP

Dear Mrs Stiles

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Cherry Willingham Community School**

Following my visit to your school on 2 July 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings of my visit. 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 May 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit I met with you, members of the senior leadership team and members of the Governing Body. I evaluated the school improvement plan and a range of documentation. This included the school self-evaluation form, data relating to students' attainment and progress as well as minutes of recent governing body meetings. The deputy head took me on a tour of the school and we made brief visits to a range of classes.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection in May 2013, there have been no significant changes in school leadership or staffing. However, a new assistant headteacher has been appointed and will take up her post in September. Also, a new staffing structure has been agreed, to be implemented in the autumn term.

## **Main findings**

You and your deputy headteachers have a strong sense of purpose and your staff are enthusiastic and committed to making 'Cherry Willingham' a good school. You are well aware of the main actions required to ensure good outcomes by the next inspection. You have set out a clear ambition to be good as rapidly as possible and have acted determinedly to achieve this.

Following the inspection, a school improvement plan was promptly compiled, aptly entitled 'getting to good', which covers the five key improvement areas. An overview has been created that will enable you and the governing body to check on progress throughout the plan easily. The progress of all actions taken is carefully noted on the plan using a red, orange and green traffic light monitoring system. It is clear from this monitoring that many of the actions required are already underway. These include:

- the introduction of a new teaching and learning strategy
- the introduction of a new system for tracking students' progress that gives a clear overview of how well students are doing across the school
- the introduction of a stream-lined system to check achievement, teaching and behaviour across the school
- restructuring the leadership team of subject and pastoral leaders.

It is clear to you that these actions will take time to have a full impact on students' achievement.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- maintain a tight focus on evaluating learning in lessons and students' progress over time
- ensure that the governing body receives regular reports from an external adviser on the progress being made in achieving the five key improvement areas that are highlighted in the school improvement plan.

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

## **External support**

In the past, the school has regularly drawn on some very useful support from its local authority's school improvement service to provide an external view on the quality of its provision and outcomes. There are firm plans to reinstate this support through a programme of termly checks on the progress you are making towards meeting the five main aims set out in your action plan.

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

Yours sincerely

Trevor Riddiough  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**