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18 November 2020

Helen Friend  
Executive Headteacher  
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Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire  
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Dear Mrs Friend

### **Ofsted visit to Ellesmere Port Christ Church C of E Primary School**

Following my visit with Claire Cropper, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 21 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and members of the senior leadership team. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

**From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- The school reopened its doors to all pupils on 2 September 2020. Leaders expect all pupils to attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is similar to what it was at this time last year. Currently, the Year 4 'bubble' is isolating.
- Teachers have identified pupils' new starting points in reading and phonics. They have found that most pupils are not too far behind where they would expect in their reading. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have forgotten some of the sounds and letters that they had previously learned prior to March 2020. Extra support has been put in place to help these pupils catch up.
- In mathematics, you have found that, since March 2020, some younger pupils have forgotten how to form numbers correctly. Older pupils are now less confident in solving mathematical problems. Teachers have adapted the mathematics curriculum to help pupils regain this lost knowledge.
- Pupils are studying all other subjects in the primary curriculum. Checks are being made to identify what pupils have remembered or forgotten in subjects other than English and mathematics. Teachers are adapting their curriculum plans in subjects such as science, history and geography to cover what pupils have missed in the summer term 2020. You are aiming to return all pupils to the usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.

- You have systems and resources in place to allow staff to deliver the curriculum remotely, should this be needed as a result of COVID-19. Staff and parents have had training on how to use these resources.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the diocese of Chester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Cheshire West and Chester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Iwaskow  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**