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Nicole Fowles
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Dear Miss Fowles

Ofsted visit to Coleshill Heath School

Following my visit with Jo Evans, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 20 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 your deputy headteacher, and other members of the senior leadership team including the senior leader responsible for safeguarding. 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 opened fully to all pupils on 4 September 2020. A small number of pupils have either not yet returned to school or are on part-time timetables.
- The current rate of attendance for pupils in Years 1 to 6 is lower compared to that of the same period last year. In early years, however, the rate of attendance is higher. Leaders have communicated with parents through telephone calls, social media and, where necessary, home visits in order to promote regular attendance. At the time of the visit, pupils in Year 2 and children in the Nursery Year were self-isolating.
- All pupils are studying the full range of subjects as part of their normal curriculum this term. Pupils cannot attend swimming lessons as the local pool is closed, and the children's university is not running this term. The school has allocated additional time for personal, social and health education (PHSE).
- Leaders assessed pupils' new starting points in phonics, reading, writing and mathematics earlier this term. This was in order to identify which children have fallen behind during the period when schools were only open to some children due to COVID-19 restrictions, and where there are common gaps in learning for all pupils.
- In phonics, pupils who need additional help to catch up have been identified. Leaders found that most pupils were struggling with reading fluency where they had not been practising reading aloud during the period when schools

were only open to some children due to COVID-19 restrictions. According to leaders, this had a negative impact on pupils' expression.

- In mathematics, all pupils in Years 1 to 6 missed work on shape during the summer term. Leaders are seeking to address this through mathematics lessons and additional catch-up sessions this term.
- Leaders said that in the wider curriculum they had identified the key knowledge and skills that pupils missed during the summer term. They have reshaped the autumn term curriculum, and, where necessary, the sequence of themes taught, to incorporate the lost learning.
- Leaders have put in place plans for when individuals or whole classes self-isolate. Their intention is to deliver the curriculum remotely through a blend of digital and paper-based activities. They said that music would be the most difficult subject to teach remotely.

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 regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Birmingham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mark Sims
Her Majesty's Inspector