



NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## THE GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CORNWALL ROAD, ASHBY, SCUNTHORPE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE, DN16 3AW

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Head Teacher

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July 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Distinction

### Ref: Ofsted and our High Expectations

As we begin to plan our strategy for school improvement for the next academic year, I would like to bring to your attention, the attached letter from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector with all the contents very much in line with our aims and high expectations at The Grange Primary School.

Despite our absolutely brilliant end of year six SATs results, we still have a lot of work to do in relation to raising standards and achievement all round throughout all year groups and activities such as homework and reading at home (at least three times a week and five times a week for year 6 pupils) are even more important now. We do have some parents who still do not support us in this arena. We are preparing your children for life beyond our school and believe me when I say that at secondary level your child will receive much more homework than they currently receive.

Our expectations are very high and will continue to be higher as we challenge ourselves to be even better and with the introductions of new government agendas such as: Assessing without Levels and the new curriculum changes.

***If you choose to send your child to this school, then you are choosing to buy into our policies and procedures which include: returning homework, reading at home, having the appropriate PE kit in school, accepting and celebrating other cultures and religions and behaving, to mention just a few.***

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a happy summer vacation.

Mrs Thorpe  
Headteacher

and Miss Thomas  
Deputy Headteacher

Giving ... Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



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**Sir Michael Wilshaw**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Colleague

As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, my aim is simple: I want the best possible education for all pupils in England. Since I came to Ofsted, I have been determined to reform inspection so that it is higher quality, is more consistent and has ever greater impact on improving education.

To this end, I have made radical changes to the way Ofsted inspects. I have established that only good is good enough through the introduction of the 'requires improvement' grade. Inspectors do not tell teachers how to teach. They do not grade individual lessons but, in dialogue with the headteacher, make an assessment of the overall quality of teaching in the school. Inspectors do not require schools to produce lengthy policy documents. Inspection reports are now much simpler, clearer and more readable for parents and carers. From September, my reforms will go even further.

Over recent years, we have seen major improvements in our education system. There are more children in good or outstanding schools now than ever before and standards are rising. We have a generation of inspiring headteachers and it is their leadership and the hard work of teachers that have brought about this change. Make no mistake, however: there is still a long way to go. We are some way behind our top international competitors. Regional variation in performance is still wide and the underachievement of youngsters from disadvantaged homes remains substantial and unacceptable.

If further improvement is to come, it is headteachers, their leadership teams and teachers who will lead this transformation. When it comes to making a difference to the lives of children and young people across the country, you are the most influential people in England.

In this letter, you will read about the next phase of significant new reforms that Ofsted will introduce in September 2015. These changes are designed to recognise and encourage great leadership. Together with your leadership, these reforms will



Special schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools that are judged outstanding will also benefit from short inspections. Under legislation, these settings are not exempt from routine inspections if they are judged outstanding, but I am keen to recognise the work that they are doing in the same way as for good schools.

### **A common inspection framework**

From September, I will be introducing the new common inspection framework. This builds closely on the changes made in school inspection over the past few years. When we consulted on the new framework last year, around eight in 10 of the schools and parents who responded supported this approach.

The common inspection framework emphasises the impact of leaders' work in developing and sustaining an ambitious culture and vision in their school. Inspectors will also look at leaders' work to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and they will continue to place the effectiveness of safeguarding at the heart of every inspection. When considering pupils' outcomes, inspectors will want to see that the pupils currently at the school are making good progress.

There will be a new judgement on personal development, behaviour and welfare. This will include a focus on pupils' confidence and self-assurance as learners, their pride in achievement and the impact behaviour has on outcomes. Inspectors will also look at how schools help pupils make choices about the next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training as they prepare for life and work in Britain today.

The judgements about the effectiveness of early years provision and 16 to 19 study programmes are now aligned with judgements on similar provision in other settings so that pupils and parents can make informed choices.

### **Changes to the inspection workforce**

I am radically reforming Ofsted's inspection workforce. From September 2015, the inspection of schools will no longer be outsourced. Instead, we will contract directly with new Ofsted Inspectors, with HMI leading the great majority of inspections.

As a direct result of these changes, hundreds of serving leaders will join forces with HMI to deliver inspections. By September, seven out of 10 of our new Ofsted Inspectors will be current practitioners who are leading in good or outstanding schools. HMI and Ofsted Inspectors will train together and work closely together in Ofsted's regions. These proven leaders will help to improve the quality and consistency of inspection. Ofsted will benefit from having the expertise and first-hand insight of these current leaders in our inspection teams. In return, Ofsted Inspectors will gain inspection expertise that they can use and apply to build capacity in their

carrying out inspections for Ofsted. These scrutiny panels will assess and rule on the internal reviews of complaints about inspection. Their decisions will be binding on Ofsted. The membership of these committees will be resolved in the next couple of months so that they can start their work in September. We will publish the names of the committee members on our website in due course.

### **The impact of these reforms**

I hope that these reforms will encourage schools to focus on what is best for their pupils, rather than concentrating on what they think is required for inspection. In fact, the new school inspection handbook includes details of specific practices that are not required by Ofsted.

Ofsted's mission remains unchanged. Our inspections will remain as rigorous as ever. As Chief Inspector, I will continue to shine a spotlight on underperformance, even when this is uncomfortable for those involved.

I encourage you to share this letter with your staff, governors and parents. All our inspection materials, further information and some short videos explaining the changes from September 2015 are available on the [Ofsted website](#).

Thank you for all the hard work you and your staff and governors are doing to raise standards and improve children's lives. I know you are as committed as I am to improving education for all. I hope you have a chance to rest this summer and reflect on the year that has gone before preparing for the challenges of the new academic year ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wilshaw".

**Sir Michael Wilshaw**  
**Her Majesty's Chief Inspector**