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3 February 2016

Mrs Nichola Russell  
Headteacher  
Sandal Castle VA Community Primary School  
Barnsley Road  
Sandal  
Wakefield  
WF2 6AS

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

Dear Mrs Russell

### **Removal from special measures**

I am writing to congratulate you, your staff, the governing body, parents, carers and pupils on the decision that Sandal Castle VA Community Primary School no longer requires special measures.

I know that progress is the result of hard work and commitment on the part of many people, especially you and your staff. It is clear from the inspection report that you and your senior leaders have taken well-targeted action to tackle the areas of concern highlighted at the last inspection.

I am particularly encouraged to read that teaching is consistently good and improving. Teachers plan engaging and challenging lessons that enable pupils to make good progress. I am pleased to see that these changes are having a positive impact on pupils' learning.

It is also reassuring to note that the school is a calm and happy place in which pupils feel safe, are well behaved and polite to each other.

I hope you, your staff and governors are celebrating the success of all the efforts made on the journey out of special measures, which may well have included some difficult times. I trust you agree that the progress made has been to the benefit of the pupils in your care.

I wish you every success in your continuing drive for further improvement in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael Wilshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

**Sir Michael Wilshaw**