

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors,

I am writing to bring your attention to some changes within the paperwork that School Improvement Partners will be using on their autumn term visits.

The document attached is the new autumn term report which is entitled 'Annual Review'. This document will summarise the current performance of the school in much the same way that it did last year. The change is that there is now an appendix which highlights some of the questions SIP's will ask. The aim of the appendix is to give additional guidance to SIP's (something they have been asking for) and also ensure further consistency within SIP visits across the county.

The questions are of a detailed nature and match the sort of questions that will be asked by any Ofsted visit. This again is something that has been requested by many head teachers. I am attaching the report format and appendix to give you time to prepare your responses. If your SIP visit is already planned for September they have been asked to give you additional time to find the answers you want to give, this could be by e-mail after the visit if required. Some leeway will also be given with any comparisons to national averages which may not be available when your visit takes place. Many schools will have the information required at their fingertips and this will support strong leadership judgements. Although the questions are challenging I am sure you will agree it is better to have an opportunity to practice them with your SIP rather than hear them for the first time when an inspector calls.

SIP's have also been given new documentation to support head teacher performance management. If you have signed up for support with this through our SLA a copy will be sent to you separately. If you have not signed up but wish to please contact Jacqui.Pearson@northumberland.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

David Street

Commissioner for Primary and Early Years Education

Northumberland County Council

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