

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



8 December 2010

Mr D Sheppard
Headteacher
The Charter School
Red Post Hill
London
SE24 9JH

Dear Mr Sheppard

Ofsted 2010–11 best practice survey: school governance

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and governors, during my visit on 22 November 2010 as part of our survey on school governance.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in school governance. The publication will include case studies about individual schools. If The Charter School is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment before publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: scrutiny of relevant documentation and interviews with you, governors, the clerk to the governing body and members of staff.

Features of best practice

- Governors are trusted and valued members of the school community. They are exceptionally knowledgeable about the school's work and provide a robust level of support and challenge for school leaders and staff.
- Very productive, professional relationships between school leaders, governors and staff are based on an explicit and shared understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- The governing body maintains a clearly defined strategic role. They are actively involved in school improvement planning and rigorously monitor and evaluate the impact on students' achievement and well-being.
- A highly effective system to link governors to key curriculum areas deepens the governing body's understanding of school improvement planning. It provides information about the curriculum, staffing and resource allocation while allowing school staff to understand the role of governors and to develop close links with the governing body.

- The role of clerk to the governing body is carried out very effectively. Exceptionally clear documentation, including a sharply focused strategic calendar and a very comprehensive booklet outlining protocols and duties, ensure that governors meet their statutory obligations and keep up to date with changing requirements.

Areas for development, which we discussed, included:

- continuing efforts to recruit governors from more diverse backgrounds so that the governing body better reflects the school community.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop governance in your school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Anne Wellham
Her Majesty's Inspector