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Ms B Francis
Headteacher
Dunstall Hill Primary School
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Dear Ms Francis

Ofsted 2011–12 survey inspection programme: a review of anti-bullying practice in schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 9 November 2011 as part of our survey of schools' work to create a positive school culture and prevent and tackle bullying.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

Strengths of this aspect of the school's work

- Students' positive behaviour and good manners were evident during this inspection. They are proud of their school and very pleased to talk about it. There is also a genuine warmth and care apparent in the way in which students treat each other and in the high degree of respect shown for each other's religion, culture and background.
- The school's communication of expectations about behaviour is highly effective. Vibrant and relevant displays around the school include posters related to good behaviour, tolerance, respect and anti-bullying. Assemblies are well used and memorable. The use of songs and the school poem help to reinforce elements of behaviour and ethos in a way that is particularly effective for students whose first language is not English.
- The induction of new students is effective and thorough. Older students provide an excellent role model of how to behave. Students have a very sound understanding of how to report concerns about bullying or bad behaviour and have great confidence in their teachers.

- Systems to support positive relationships in the school, such as peer mentors, are good. Students have a good understanding of how to be considerate to each other, assisted by an emphasis on the use of 'kind words'.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- revisiting the school's definition of bullying so that all incidents of related behaviour can be recorded and analysed and developing systems for the regular analysis of these records so that patterns and trends can be more easily established
- introducing regular reporting to the governing body on any incidents of serious misbehaviour and on racism, homophobia, bullying and accidents so that they can build an understanding of the current position and trends.

I hope that this visit has been useful in the further development of this aspect of the school's work.

As 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

John Peckham
Her Majesty's Inspector