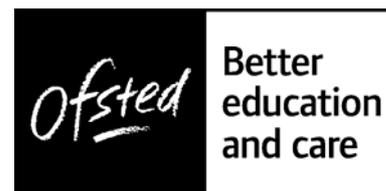


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Miss Jane Green  
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13 June 2006

Dear Miss Green

### **OFSTED MONITORING OF GRADE 3 SCHOOLS**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff, chair of governors and pupils gave when I visited your school on 24 May, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit.

Having considered carefully all the evidence presented by the school and the local authority I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress overall on the issues identified at the last inspection.

To make better use of information on how well pupils are doing, and how good teaching is, so that more able pupils get hard enough work, the school has introduced good systems for monitoring children's progress. Regular assessments have been introduced and the results of these are entered on a clear, straightforward and informative display showing children's progress towards their targets. Teachers are more confident in assessing the levels at which children are working, particularly in English. More checks are needed to ensure the accuracy of these judgements in other subjects. Nevertheless, the work has resulted in some timely support being provided for groups of lower achieving children who were not making the progress expected. The progress of average and higher attaining children is also monitored and the school recognises the need to put in place actions to ensure that these too are achieving as well as they should be.

The approach being taken to compiling a list of gifted and talented children is thorough, but not yet complete. In most lessons the planning of work which matches different pupils' abilities is satisfactory. Further work still needs to be

done to ensure that the more able are given enough work which challenges them. Marking is satisfactory overall. While it generally gives good guidance for children of all abilities on how to improve their work, there is too much variability. An effective programme of teaching observations has been undertaken. This has led to some good improvements but there is still too much variation in the progress made by children of different abilities and in different classes.

The governing body is revitalised and there is now a full complement of governors. Governors are clearer about their role and how to carry it out. Though there remains much to do, progress is being made on ensuring that governors are meeting their statutory duties, for example performance management processes are now in place within the school.

Through a system of class councils children are now able to express their views which are then taken forward to the school council. This is run well and some important improvements have resulted, for example the adoption of rules for the playground. It is a good start to providing ways for children to express their views on how the school could be better and to give them more opportunities to show initiative and take responsibility.

I hope you find this evaluation helpful as you continue to work on the issues identified in your inspection.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Alder  
HM Inspector.