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Mrs Karen Lewis
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Dear Mrs Lewis

OFSTED MONITORING OF SCHOOLS WHOSE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS HAS BEEN JUDGED SATISFACTORY

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Tuesday 5 December 2006, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Could you please pass on my thanks to those staff and children I met and to the local authority advisor for the time she gave.

As a result of the inspection on 5 December 2006, the school was asked to look at six main areas of concern and ensure that: teachers are clear about what pupils need to learn next; pupils know what the next steps are in their learning; any underachievement can be quickly noticed and put right; systems for the management of behaviour are updated so that pupils can manage their own behaviour more effectively; the number of exclusions are reduced; and, there are more rigorous systems for monitoring and evaluating the school's effectiveness.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making good progress on the issues identified at the last inspection.

Excellent progress has been made in addressing the issues with regards to improving behaviour. As a result, the school is a calm, pleasant place to be where pupils say they feel safe. The new behaviour policy and systems to support behaviour are effective and staff and pupils have totally bought into the positive approach and 'can do' philosophy. Pupils value the rewards systems and feel that their behaviour is now improving. Teachers are consistent in managing pupils' behaviour and there is a great deal of emphasis on reminding pupils of their behaviour targets. As a result of all of this, exclusions have dropped considerably over the last year to the extent that there have only been two fixed term exclusions this term. This reflects

outstanding progress in addressing the issue with regards to exclusions. Attendance has also improved and is now satisfactory with only a very small amount of unauthorised absence.

Good progress has been made in ensuring that teachers know what pupils need to learn next. Systems now ensure that teachers' planning is more effective and pupils comment that they get different work from each other and feel that they are doing well in lessons. Procedures for assessing how well pupils are doing have improved and staff are making more effective use of this to set numeracy and literacy targets. Although target setting is fairly new, staff are beginning to develop their skills in ensuring that the targets are relevant and well focused for each individual.

Satisfactory progress has been made in ensuring that pupils know what the next steps in learning are. Pupils know their behaviour target well but they are not so confident about their literacy and numeracy targets. This is because not all staff are reminding pupils of these targets and reinforcing them during lessons. Marking of work is encouraging and recognises pupils' achievements. There is however not a consistent approach in ensuring that pupils have a clear understanding of what they need to do to improve further.

Satisfactory progress has been made in identifying underachievement. The school now collates its data more effectively and is identifying where pupils are not making the progress they should. The use of Fischer Family Trust data has enabled the school to gain a better understanding of pupils' achievements but it has not used this data effectively enough in setting itself more challenging targets at the end of Key Stage 2. The school is not yet setting itself targets for achievement for the end of Key Stage 1.

The school has a better understanding of its strengths and weaknesses and has made satisfactory progress on the issue of monitoring its work. Clear roles and responsibilities have been established. However, formal systems for monitoring teaching and learning are not yet sufficiently embedded and are not providing an adequate evidence base for the school's judgements on effectiveness in these areas.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Mascal
Additional Inspector