

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404045
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@Ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Doctor Tracey Jones
Weston Favell School
Booth Lane South
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 3EZ

Dear Dr Jones

Ofsted survey inspection programme: the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation and that of your colleagues during my visit to Weston Favell School on Tuesday 4 November 2008 to look at the work of your school in relation to the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion. I would be grateful if you would pass my thanks also to the young people with whom I met.

The school has been through a period of change following a re-structuring of education in the county, staff changes and adapting to a new building. As a result, behaviour in the school had become very challenging and exclusions had risen as a result. However, no pupil has been excluded for more than 5 days since September 2007. The visit was helpful in enabling me to understand the strategies you are introducing to improve learning and behaviour and reduce exclusions overall. The following points summarise my findings from our discussions, data and document review and conversations with parents and pupils.

- The school has a strong commitment to creating an inclusive ethos and avoiding permanent exclusions.
- The range and creativity of strategies to support pupils to avoid exclusion is impressive.
- Very effective planning and support for reintegration into mainstream schooling following exclusion.
- Pupils who have spent time in The Ark Success Centre have been successful on their return to the mainstream school and no pupils have been re-referred.
- Very supportive and productive relationship established with the neighbouring Northampton Academy to share provision and enable young people to stay in their local community.

The number of fixed term exclusions remains high, but strategies being implemented have resulted in none longer than 6 days and permanent exclusions have significantly reduced from 13 in 2006/07 to three in 2007/08.

The school promotes a very inclusive ethos and sense of "ownership" of its pupils. The school has a very acute awareness of issues in the community between pupils from black and other ethnic groups and takes very strong action taken to stop gang culture being brought into the school. The proportion of pupils with SEN being excluded is reducing but remains high. One pupil with a statement was permanently excluded last year which is unacceptable. No looked after children have been excluded at all.

Areas for improvement which we discussed include:

- further work on improving teaching and learning to promote good behaviour and reduce the numbers of fixed term exclusions
- work with the LA to ensure that pupils with special needs access appropriate support and that statutory review processes are used to avoid permanent exclusions of pupils with statements.

The visit will provide much useful evidence for our survey.

Weston Favell School will not be named in any publication without your permission. Most evidence will be used at a general level to ascertain if schools and local authorities are complying with legislation and to identify the quality and extent of their provision.

Thank you once again for your co-operation and the work you put in before hand and on the day to help me gain a good insight into the work of your school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A E Wade
Her Majesty's Inspector