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Mrs Sue Collins
Brookside Junior School
Dagnam Park Drive
Harold Hill
Romford
Essex

Dear Mrs Collins

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Moving through the system

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 January 2009 to look at work on developing the future economic well-being of pupils in your school. I also looked at how well arrangements are made to support pupils during their transition into secondary school.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included:

- scrutiny of relevant documentation
- observation of two lessons
- interviews with staff
- a meeting with a group of seven Year 6 pupils.

Overall, your school's work in developing the future economic well-being of pupils is satisfactory. There is a strong focus across the curriculum on raising skill levels in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) and on increasing opportunities for pupils to apply these skills. Pupils develop self-confidence and show good ability to work in teams.

Features of effective practice:

- Most pupils have positive attitudes to learning and their behaviour is good. They have a good sense of responsibility. Standards in literacy, numeracy and ICT are improving.
- The quality of teaching seen was good. Teaching and learning approaches were varied and meeting pupils' needs well. Pupils were making mostly good progress.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Increased use is being made of ICT in lessons. Support for pupils is very good. Marking of pupils' work is good and there is now a sharpened focus on monitoring and tracking pupils' progress and the effectiveness of interventions.
- Themed curriculum activities, such as the multicultural fortnight, are helping to improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of a wide range of moral and global issues, including a need for recycling and individual rights and responsibilities. School assemblies and presentation days are used effectively to recognise and celebrate pupils' achievements, thereby helping to improve their self-confidence. The school council promotes pupils' understanding of democratic processes and helps them to engage in problem solving. Pupils are encouraged to be creative in raising funds for good causes. There are good opportunities for pupils to take responsibility and develop independence. Pupils' general knowledge and awareness is enhanced through school trips and use of visiting speakers.
- Processes to support pupils' transfer and transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 are good. The school's personal, social and health education programme helps prepare pupils for various situations they may encounter. Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to sample sessions in local secondary schools. Home-family support workers and learning mentors provide good support for pupils and their families. Partnerships with local secondary schools are good.
- Inclusion is good. All pupils are involved in initiatives to promote economic well-being. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, looked after children and pupils who are gifted and/or talented, are all well supported.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- Develop ways to monitor and track learners' developing economic well-being as they move through the school.
- Improve opportunities for learners to apply core skills in real-life contexts.
- Increase opportunities for learners to develop their financial capability.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop economic well-being in the school.

As I explained, 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.

Yours sincerely

Vic Chivers
Her Majesty's Inspector