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Mr G Mellefont
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Mellefont

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme: the impact that links between parents/carers and schools have on supporting and encouraging young people's achievement, well-being and personal development

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of parents and your staff, during my visit on 12 January 2010 to look at the impact that links between parents/carers and schools have on supporting and encouraging young people's achievement, well-being and personal development.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the aspect, the visit had a particular focus on how the school's work with parents and carers affects a range of outcomes for pupils.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: discussions with you and senior leaders, other members of staff, pupils, a parent-governor representative, parents and representatives of other agencies. School documentation was also analysed.

The overall effectiveness of the school's links with parents/carers and their impact on the outcomes for pupils are good.

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes is good.

- Levels of engagement with parents and families are high and purposeful. There is regular, daily communication through the home/school diary

which is much appreciated by parents. They see this as a key medium through which they and the school can inform each other about issues and developments. In addition, parents confirm they are briefed well about their children's progress and targets through frequent discussions with staff.

- There is very strong evidence of effective impact on pupils' behaviour and attitudes towards school through the dedicated work of the staff and coordinated strategies with partner organisations, such as the community and mental health service.
- Pastoral support for pupils and families is a particularly strong feature of the school's work and underpins your success in helping pupils to make good progress in their learning.
- Parents are keen to support pupils' learning and improve their behaviour at home. The school has done much to develop parents' understanding of their children's needs by explaining how they can be supported at home.

The impact of parental involvement on the quality of provision

The impact of parental involvement on the quality of provision is good.

- You are able to provide clear evidence to demonstrate how you consult with parents and take account of their views. More recently, you have asked for parents' ideas regarding the impending new school building design.
- The school does not engage parents directly in classrooms to support learning. However, it provides well-respected support to enable them to offer direct support to their children at home. Often, this is in relation to the management of their children's behaviour but it also supports their children's academic progress.
- You have a good record of supporting families and enabling children with re-integration into mainstream schools and give a number of successful examples where this has occurred.

The impact of the parental involvement on inclusion

The impact of the parental involvement on inclusion is outstanding.

- The school is highly inclusive. Efforts to meet the needs of all pupils are exemplary and this has impacted very positively on high achievement for pupils.
- Curricular provision is well targeted and personalised to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils exceptionally well.
- Attendance is very high; there are few fixed-term exclusions and there are no permanent exclusions.

The impact of leadership and management on the involvement of parents

The impact of leadership and management on the involvement of parents is good.

- You understand the needs of the school community well. Collectively, the staff demonstrate a keen awareness and comprehensive knowledge of individual families and their circumstances.
- You are able to provide convincing evidence of the positive impact of parental support on the learning and behaviour of individual pupils. However, you are yet to undertake a detailed analysis of this work, or of any other whole-school actions designed to enable engagement with parents.
- Your strategic approach to engaging parents is reflected in a range of documentation and fully underpins the central importance you attach to the role of parents in supporting children's learning and development.
- Parents confirm that the school's senior leaders and staff work hard to ensure that relationships between parents and the school are strong.
- Parents' views are valued and acted upon. There is open access to staff on request. Parents consider that the school is responsive to their requests for meetings and that staff work earnestly to overcome problems and barriers.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- finding ways to evaluate the impact of whole-school actions designed to engage with parents in supporting their children's learning and progress.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop the impact of the work of parents and carers in the 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.

Yours sincerely

Tom Grieveson
Her Majesty's Inspector