

2 February 2011

Ms L Thomasson
Headteacher
Kinson Primary School
School Lane
Kinson
Bournemouth
BH11 9DG

Dear Ms Thomasson

Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: nurture groups

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and children, during our visit on 18 January 2011 as part of our survey of the use of nurture groups for pupils who are vulnerable to underachieving.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to a national report. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributors or contributing institutions but individuals and institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

Strengths of the nurture group provision

- The nurture groups are an integral part of Kinson's nurturing approach to all children and their families. The groups are valued by all members of staff and the school can articulate clearly the difference they make. Parents spoken with were positive about the work of the groups.
- The manager of the nurture groups and the inclusion coordinator work together closely. They have a detailed knowledge of individual children and a clear understanding of how the nurture groups fit in with the whole-school provision to meet children's needs.
- The rationale for the nurture groups is clear. Their aim is to help children develop the skills necessary to be successful learners and to develop positive relationships with other children.
- The two nurture groups have different roles and enable the school to offer provision at both key stages.
- The nurture groups can be used flexibly for long-term or short-term placements if families' or children's needs change or if pupils experience unforeseen difficulties.

- Pupils who would benefit from the nurture group for infant-aged children are identified early in their school life using information from a wide range of sources including the observations of experienced adults. The Boxall Profile is used as a tool to confirm that a placement would be appropriate.
- Sessions have a clear and predictable structure that contributes to the children's feeling of safety and security. There is also flexibility to respond to particular needs. A variety of interesting activities is provided, and these engage the children well.
- Respect and relationships between adults and the children are strong in both the groups. Expectations of behaviour are high, with clear and supportive direction from the adults.
- Communication between class teachers and nurture group staff enables ongoing adjustments to the provision and monitoring of academic and social and emotional progress.
- The school's data indicate that the pupils who attend the nurture groups make progress in line with that of their peers.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- continuing to improve the planning of activities within the nurture groups to ensure that learning objectives for individual children are clear
- bringing together the wealth of monitoring information so that the effectiveness of the nurture groups can be measured clearly and future actions prioritised for individuals and the groups.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop this aspect of the school's work.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Heather Yaxley
Her Majesty's Inspector