

19 November 2010

Mrs E Beighton
Headteacher
Market Rasen De Aston School
Willingham Road
Market Rasen
Lincolnshire
LN8 3RF

Dear Mrs Beighton

Ofsted 2010–11 best practice survey: school governance

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 November 2010 to look at school governance.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in school governance. The publication will include case studies about individual schools. If Market Rasen De Aston School is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment before publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the identification of features of excellent practice included: a review of documentation; meetings with a range of governors and staff; and discussions with some students.

Features of best practice

- Governors are fully committed and passionate about doing their very best for the school and its students. Working closely with you, they have successfully developed a culture of openness where challenge is understood and accepted.
- Governors are provided with a good range of information related to the school's work, including regular student progress reports.
- Self-review has been effective in engaging the full governing body; it has improved the committee structure and successfully audited the skills of the governors.
- All committees have very clear terms of reference along with annual priorities and meetings have a very clear focus. Each meeting relates back to whole-school targets and priorities in the school improvement plan.
- An audit of governors' skills has ensured that their experience, expertise and interest are used to very good effect.

- Governors engage well with students. They have attended school council meetings, invited students to make presentations and involved students in some aspects of decision-making. For example, a student was included in the panel that investigated and selected a contractor to install an all-weather outdoor games surface.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to further develop governance.

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. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Amraz Ali
Her Majesty's Inspector