

Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231  
F 020 7421 6855  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



1 December 2010

Mrs S Bradley  
Headteacher  
The Kingsmead School  
Bridge Street  
Derby  
Derbyshire  
DE1 3LB

Dear Mrs Bradley

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: alternative provision**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 11 November 2010 to look at your pupil referral unit's use of alternative provision. Please pass on my thanks to the deputy headteacher, the personal placement manager, the Junction 16 coordinator and the finance manager. Special thanks also go to the young people who came in to talk to me.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on examining the use of alternative provision for pupils who are vulnerable to underachieving, and the impact that this has on the outcomes for these 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 without their consent.

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

### **Outcomes**

- The students gain a range of accreditations from their placements that help them to build up useful qualifications alongside those from their core curriculum at Kingsmead.
- The students feel that their qualifications will help them to follow careers of their choice.
- Students' success in their placements appears to go hand-in-hand with the role of their mentors, of whom they speak highly, particularly in relation to the support that they get.

## **Selecting and commissioning**

- The tendering process has worked well to establish a group of providers that is committed to Kingsmead's high expectations for good-quality teaching and learning, as well as to high standards of welfare, health and safety for the students when they are in their care.
- The selection of alternative education providers serves the students well in enabling them to have choice, to follow courses that are of interest to them and to look ahead to see how they might continue their education at the end of Key Stage 4.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and support**

- The personal placement manager is very committed to holding providers to account and has set up a clear set of procedures to bring rigour and transparency to the quality assurance process.
- The training and support for providers are well targeted, not only helping to develop their skills and understanding but also to ensure accountability and mutual support.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop alternative provision at Kingsmead.

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**