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13 October 2010

Mr C Bradey  
Headteacher  
Portchester School  
Harewood Avenue  
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BH7 6NZ

Dear Mr Bradey

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

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 September 2010 to look at your school's use of alternative provision.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on examining the use of alternative provision for students who are vulnerable to underachieving, and the impact this has on the outcomes for these students.

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**

- Alternative provision is seen as a key component of the adaptations made to the curriculum to support vulnerable students and as part of the school's determination to remove barriers to learning.
- Students who receive alternative provision attain suitable qualifications in the core curriculum and the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness. They gain vocational qualifications in subjects such as animal care and motor vehicle maintenance.
- Individual students have also progressed in gaining confidence and maturity. The students themselves recognise this and feel that they are becoming more confident. They enjoy their placements and are learning to conduct themselves in a more adult environment. They are learning important skills so that they are preparing well for their future education, employment or training.

## **Selecting and commissioning**

- The school uses two main providers. It has developed its relationship with the provider of motor vehicle training so that it can offer a Level 1 course. Service level agreements are in place to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and support**

- The school has clear arrangements in place to monitor attendance at placements. Both providers supply regular reports on progress. Very close working relationships with school staff and their detailed knowledge of each boy's needs mean that any problems can be quickly resolved. The school regularly monitors individual students' progress and attitude to learning. It also has a wealth of anecdotal evidence of how well students are progressing. Currently, this is not brought together to consistently judge the effectiveness of the provision.
- Students recognise that the alternative provision they receive in Years 10 and 11 has improved their attitudes to school. They feel that they know what they would like to do when they leave school and appreciate the good support they receive which is helping them to achieve.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop alternative provision in the school.

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

**Stephen McShane**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**