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23 November 2010

Mr R Gooding
Headteacher
Whissendine Church of England Primary School
Main Street
Whissendine
Oakham
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Dear Mr Gooding

Ofsted 2010–11 good practice survey: value for money in schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 4 November 2010 to look at work in your school.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. The published report is likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: meetings with school leaders and managers, including the Chair of the Governing Body, and the school's bursar; analysis of documents including budgetary information, self-evaluations and improvement plans; and observation of the school at work.

Features of good practice

- In lessons, teaching is outstanding when it responds to pupils' needs and interests, and promotes initiative and independence.
- The school uses information and communication technology innovatively to link its priorities with expenditure. This enables school leaders to consider and cost a range of scenarios before deciding how to use resources to secure priorities.
- The bursar conducts very effective analyses of benchmarking information to help the school's leaders to evaluate how effectively the school is using its resources.
- The governing body has well-considered plans for the future development of the school to ensure that it has the capacity for sustained improvement.

Area for development

- Develop the software linking expenditure to school priorities to help school leaders evaluate accurately, and throughout the school year, the cost effectiveness of support for target groups and individuals.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop 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. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Anthony O'Malley
Her Majesty's Inspector