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Mrs Lynne Burnley
Headteacher
St Hugh's C of E Primary School
Wildmoore Avenue
Holts
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Dear Mrs Burnley

Ofsted 2010-11 subject survey inspection programme: music

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils during my visit on 7 October 2010 to look at work in music and particularly the impact of the national 'wider opportunities' initiative, supported through the standards fund.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: discussions with the headteacher, pupils and the Deputy Director from the local authority music service; scrutiny of relevant documentation, observations of a Year 3 and a Year 6 whole class instrumental lessons and an assembly for the whole school.

Features of good practice observed

- The school became the first in the local authority to be involved with the national 'wider opportunities' whole class instrumental initiative in 2004. Teaching is provided through the local authority music service. The programme is now running for all pupils in Key Stage 2 and has replaced the core music curriculum. Standards are above average in instrumental playing. The school also promotes singing and is rightly proud, especially, of the boys' choir. It is also pleased by the achievements of those involved in other music ensembles.
- The additional funding given by the school to this programme is considerable. As a result, music has become important not just for the

pupils but also within the local community, with teachers and other adults learning and playing instruments together.

- Recognising that music learning was important to pupils' wider personal development, participation in music is promoted through the involvement of all pupils in a number of local and regional events. Success for the choirs at music festivals has been followed by the school band taking part in similar events. Pupils spoke with great enthusiasm about playing their instruments, especially when performing with pupils from other school at a music service concert staged in Manchester.
- Additional ensembles and small groups, to meet pupils' different needs, meet regularly and although pupils do not take their instruments home, opportunities are provided throughout the week for pupils to practice.
- From this term, visiting teachers have started using commercially published resource materials which provide a prescriptive structure for each lesson. These appear to provide considerable emphasis on music games and listening tasks, with composing work and other aspects of the curriculum less well represented. It is not clear how these materials are adapted to meet the particular needs and skills of your pupils. It is also unclear whether the assessment criteria which accompany the new materials are the best way of measuring your pupils' musical progress. Rigorous monitoring of the use of these materials is required, to ensure that they benefit and impact sufficiently on pupils' progress and enjoyment.

Areas for further development

As we discussed, provision in the school could be further improved by:

- ensuring that curriculum changes introduced into the whole class instrumental lessons this term, cover all requirements and provide suitable challenge for all pupils
- monitoring the use of assessment to ensure it provides an appropriate way of measuring the progress made and the standard reached by individual pupils.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop music in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Marianne Young
Her Majesty's Inspector