

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



1 December 2010

Mr T Harding
Headteacher
Belper School
John O'Gaunts Way
Off Kilburn Road
Belper
DE56 1RZ

Dear Mr Harding

Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: alternative provision

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 9 November 2010 to look at your school's use of alternative provision. Please pass on my special thanks to the inclusion coordinator, the special educational needs coordinator and the assistant headteacher.

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 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

- Attending off-site alternative provision is enabling some of the most disaffected and vulnerable students to complete their education to the end of Key Stage 4.
- The impact that disaffected students have on other learners is an important consideration for the school when determining off-site alternative provision placements.

Selecting and commissioning

- The school's selection of off-site providers focuses very firmly on those that will successfully engage this small group of disaffected and vulnerable

students, and this means that the programmes are personalised and can be very expensive.

- Ensuring value for money is a high priority when commissioning provision and financial information is monitored and scrutinised very clearly.

Monitoring, evaluation and support

- The senior leaders monitor off-site provision diligently.
- The success criteria used to evaluate the provision are not always clearly linked to intended outcomes for the students.
- The school values the partnership with off-site providers and provides a range of relevant information to ensure that they can work with the students effectively.

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

Heather Yaxley
Her Majesty's Inspector