

25 March 2011

Mrs C Clarke  
Headteacher  
Tottenham Infant School  
Tottenham Road  
London  
N13 6HX

Dear Mrs Clarke

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: nurture groups**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and children, during my visit on 10 and 11 March 2011 as part of our survey of the use of nurture groups for pupils who are vulnerable to underachieving.

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.

### **Strengths of the nurture group provision**

- Nurturing and including pupils are at the heart of the school's vision and philosophy. You, other senior leaders and nurture group staff share a common and well-developed understanding of the aims and purpose of the nurture group. You are passionate about and committed to its success. You can demonstrate clearly the significant impact it has on the development and learning of pupils and the contribution it makes to the culture of the school. The nurture group, known as Rainbow class, mirrors and enhances the nurturing ethos of the school as a whole.
- The school's philosophy of inclusion is reflected in the fact that the Rainbow class is physically situated in the heart of the Early Years Foundation Stage area. This gives a strong message to staff and pupils about the importance of the nurture group and that it is not a 'bolt on' to the school's work.
- Pupils in the Rainbow class benefit from expertise and high-quality teaching and support. As a consequence, they make particularly strong gains in their emotional, social and behavioural development and generally good progress in their learning. Parents and carers are very appreciative of the impact that the Rainbow class has had or is having on their children,

and in particular on their confidence and self-esteem. This is perhaps best captured by comments from some parents: 'it has built back my child's confidence', 'my son now sees himself in a different light' and, Rainbow class has been a 'pot of gold'.

- Pupils feel privileged to have access to the Rainbow class; one past pupil in Year 4 referred to 'being treated like a president'. When asked, pupils indicated that the Rainbow class has helped them be better learners, for example in mathematics. What is striking about this response was that it was the first outcome that came to mind for the pupils.
- The provision is characterised by some particularly strong features which include clear structures and consistently applied routines, boundaries and expectations which give pupils security and stability. Carefully considered curriculum planning is well aligned with provision for other pupils. Close liaison between the Rainbow class staff and class teachers and other support staff ensures that transitions to mainstream classes and to junior school are well managed. The staff's strong commitment to reintegration is exemplified by their emphasis on ensuring that this process starts from the moment the pupils enter the Rainbow class.
- Assessment, tracking and regular observations are of high quality and these enable staff to monitor closely the progress of pupils and the impact of provision.
- The school benefits from valuable guidance and support from the local authority. The school is outward facing and ensures that leaders and nurture group staff contribute in equal measure to the development of nurture groups in the local authority through, for example, sharing their professional expertise.

**Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:**

- considering how to enable parents and carers to meet informally to share the difference that the Rainbow class has made to their children so that they can support each other and explain to new parents and carers about the benefits of this provision.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop this aspect of the school's work.

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 will be sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**John Kennedy**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**