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Mrs D Chambers  
Headteacher  
Greasley Beauvale Primary School  
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Dear Mrs Chambers

### **Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: English**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 3 March 2011 to look at work in English.

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: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of parts of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of English is satisfactory.

### **Achievement in English**

Achievement in English is satisfactory and improving.

- In 2010, the attainment of Year 6 pupils was broadly average. Boys performed relatively better than girls in relation to the gap in achievement nationally. The attainment of Year 2 pupils was just above average and improved on 2009, especially in the proportion achieving Level 3 in reading.
- In 2010, Year 6 pupils made less than expected progress from their starting points. However, those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, made satisfactory progress. The school's assessment information for current Year 6 pupils indicates that they are on track to improve on 2010 results. Across all year groups, pupils are making at least satisfactory progress.
- In the lessons observed, pupils made at least satisfactory and often good progress. They showed interest and enthusiasm for their work, responding

well to drama activities and group work. They collaborated well and were eager to answer teachers' questions. When given the opportunity, they used success criteria well to assess their own work or that of their peers.

### **Quality of teaching in English**

The quality of teaching in English is satisfactory with good features.

- Teachers have good subject knowledge and plan lessons thoroughly, setting clear objectives. They promote good relationships in lessons which develop pupils' confidence and willingness to learn. Classroom displays are attractive; they highlight key objectives, useful vocabulary and subject terms, and provide relevant examples of pupils' work.
- Teachers use practical tasks including drama activities, group work and visual stimuli to engage pupils' interest and to generate enthusiasm. Pupils speak positively of their enjoyment of literacy lessons.
- In the best lessons, teachers use questions well to help pupils secure understanding and to check their progress. However, in other lessons, teachers do not structure questions sufficiently well to ensure wide participation across the class or to target specific pupils at an appropriate stage and level of difficulty.
- Teachers mark pupils' work regularly. Their comments identify what pupils have achieved and set relevant and specific targets for improvement. However, it is not always clear exactly how pupils should apply the target to improve their work or where in their writing it is most important. Pupils say that they are not always clear how they should check and edit their work.

### **Quality of the curriculum in English**

The quality of the curriculum in English is good.

- The curriculum is structured well with key skills and objectives carefully allocated across the year groups. Pupils are actively involved in identifying topics they want to study and what they want to find out. Teachers then translate these choices into effective plans which cover the key skills, including opportunities to write for real purposes as part of other subjects.
- There is a good balance of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Teachers also ensure that pupils cover a wide range of different forms of writing and types of text. Drama and poetry are well represented in lessons and are popular with pupils. Pupils use computers to aid their work, for example in research or to improve the layout and appearance of leaflets and news reports.
- A good range of enrichment activities encourages pupils' interests, and includes visiting poets and authors, theatre trips and competitions.

## **Effectiveness of leadership and management in English**

Leadership and management in English are good.

- You and the subject leader have successfully developed consistent approaches to planning and teaching since the formation of the school in 2008. There is a very clear vision for the curriculum and ambitious targets for pupils' achievement. Pupils' progress is assessed regularly and monitored closely to identify which pupils require additional support.
- The priorities in the subject action plan are relevant. A rigorous cycle of monitoring ensures that progress on these priorities is evaluated regularly. Senior leaders have an accurate understanding of the quality of provision in English.
- The subject leader works effectively with a team of teachers across the school to set priorities, moderate assessments and review actions. The concerted efforts of senior staff have improved consistency in teaching and assessment, enlivened the curriculum and accelerated pupils' progress.

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

- further improving pupils' progress by ensuring that all teachers:
  - carefully structure questions to involve pupils at an appropriate stage and level of difficulty when checking their understanding in class
  - make it very clear to pupils exactly what they should focus on when they are asked to check or edit their written work
  - indicate clearly in pupils' work where the targets which they set in their marking may best be applied.

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

Yours sincerely

**Martin Cragg**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**