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Mr Moss  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Moss

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: assessing pupils' progress (APP)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 21 September 2010 to evaluate the impact of the APP initiative.

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: scrutiny of documentation; observations of teaching and learning; and discussions with senior leaders, other staff and pupils, and a representative from the local authority.

The overall use of assessment to support learning is good.

#### **Impact on pupils' achievement and attainment**

- As a result of their engagement with APP, teachers' use of assessment information is clearly focused on raising achievement. This has contributed to standards of attainment that are above the national average.
- APP aids accurate target-setting for pupils and clarifies their next steps in learning. The involvement of pupils in these processes is not yet developed fully.

#### **Impact on the quality of pupils' learning and progress**

- APP has helped the school to develop a clear picture of where pupils' learning is less secure and plan effective interventions to support their progress.

- It has been effective in supporting the learning and progress of particular groups of pupils including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, those eligible for free school meals and pupils at an early stage of learning English.

### **Impact on the quality of teaching and the use of assessment to support learning**

- APP has increased the consistency in assessment practice, particularly the use of assessment information, throughout the school. This is evident in lesson planning, where the match between pupils' needs, learning objectives and learning activities is much closer.
- More teachers are making effective use of APP in their marking to clarify how pupils can improve their work.

### **Impact on the curriculum**

- The use of APP has encouraged teachers to plan a wider range of learning activities, including practical tasks. This increased variety promotes the positive engagement and interest of most pupils.
- It has made the curriculum more personalised and flexible.

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

- increasing pupils' involvement in setting their targets for improvement.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop assessment practice in support of school improvement.

As 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

**John Seal**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**