

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



3 October 2011

Mr M Whitehead
Headteacher
Didsbury CofE Primary School
Elm Grove
Didsbury
Manchester
M20 6RL

Dear Mr Whitehead

Ofsted 2011–12 survey inspection programme: a review of anti-bullying practice in schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 26 September 2011 as part of our survey of schools' work to create a positive school culture and prevent and tackle bullying.

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 this aspect of the school's work

- The school's expectations of how adults and pupils behave towards each other are clearly articulated in the behaviour and anti-bullying policies. These policies, which are underpinned by the school's values, have led to a consistent approach to promoting very positive relationships and behaviour.
- The school's expectations for behaviour are shared and understood across the school community. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the 'SMILER' system and how their good behaviour is rewarded. Trusting relationships, appropriate staff supervision and an exciting range of play activities ensure that pupils' behaviour is of a high standard during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Pupils say that bullying rarely happens but they know what to do if they are being bullied. They are very confident that adults in the school will take any bullying issues seriously and that they will be resolved. Pupils show empathy and are able to identify how different types of bullying can affect others. They understand why they should not act as bystanders to any act of bullying or intimidation.

- The school has a holistic approach to developing pupils' skills and knowledge. Pupils' personal development receives as much attention as their academic achievements.
- The curriculum is carefully planned to systematically promote pupils' personal, social, moral and emotional development. Building on the strong foundations established in the Early Years Foundation Stage, pupils are able to explore key areas which support their ability to form positive relationships and live in a diverse society. In addition, strategies such as the 'Friendship Groups' meet the needs of those pupils who may require extra support from time to time.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- recording, monitoring and analysing the type of bullying that occurs to provide a whole-school view of emerging patterns and how different groups are affected
- developing the strategies for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school's curriculum to ensure that it fully reflects the society in which pupils live.

I hope that this visit has been useful in the further development of this aspect of the school's work.

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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Olsson
Her Majesty's Inspector