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Ms A Hudson
Headteacher
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Dear Ms Hudson

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 students during my visit on 27 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 planned curriculum contributes well to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Students clearly recognise this and appreciate the innovation in the curriculum which includes the new ethics programme for Year 11. Curriculum leaders plan activities well and seek opportunities to develop students' understanding of very sensitive issues through well-focused discussions in personal, social and health education (PSHE), citizenship and religious education lessons. Students have led discussions that relate to their own family experiences.
- Students are clear about the dimensions of bullying and what the school expects from them. They overwhelmingly speak of feeling safe and secure while at school. One recent arrival commented on how quickly he made friends and settled into school life. They are aware of the moral imperative to treat everyone with respect and that they also deserve to be respected. They express confidence in their own ability to tackle bullying and in the school's ability to deal with reported incidents.

- Teachers are well-equipped to challenge discrimination and contribute well to the strong support structure that builds students' confidence. They are knowledgeable of the different forms of behaviours that constitute bullying and there is a strong correlation between staff and students' views of the school and the expectations of how members of the school community should behave.
- Robust analysis of students' outcomes, including their conduct, enables school leaders to have a firm understanding of those students who are potentially at risk. The clear vision for the school is channelled through a strong mission statement. This has developed a culture that enables students and staff to feel confident to challenge bullying and to refer incidents. More vulnerable students are well known to the school and are supported effectively to improve their integration into school life.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- undertaking a sharper analysis of bullying-related incidents to identify the trends in behaviour and the emerging areas requiring school leaders' attention.

I hope that this visit has been useful in the further development of 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.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Morgan-Price
Her Majesty's Inspector