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Mr A Bayston
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Bayston

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 with Joan Hewitt HMI, on 20 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

- Staff and students are overwhelmingly of the view that the school has seen a significant shift in emphasis on work to promote students' social and moral development and engender an ethos of mutual respect.
- Older students report that incidents of bullying have declined considerably in the last couple of years because such behaviour is not tolerated. Younger students in their first term at secondary school are settling well, and almost all those who spoke with inspectors said that they valued the support and advice received from older students in their tutor groups. This linked well to the deep understanding of social responsibility shown by sixth formers as they spoke about their contribution as mentors and role models to younger students.
- Students of all ages clearly understand the expectations of their behaviour towards others in the school community. Many positive examples of mutual respect were shared with inspectors. Students are confident that staff will intervene robustly if intolerance and discrimination are reported

or observed directly. Occasionally, the less overt behaviours of a few individuals can be unsettling for some students and may go unnoticed by adults.

- Senior leaders have been influential in promoting an anti-bullying culture. Staff and older students recognise a significant change in the school's ethos and atmosphere. Training, underpinned by a clearly understood behaviour policy has made staff more confident in confronting intolerant attitudes in lessons or referring incidents to senior colleagues.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- increasing the emphasis on seeking the views of different groups of students when monitoring the impact of anti-bullying strategies, so that this level of detail can inform further actions.

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

Cathryn Kirby
Her Majesty's Inspector