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Mrs C Litowczuk  
Headteacher  
Manor Park Infant and Nursery School  
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Dear Mrs Litowczuk

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 November to look at work in ESD.

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with governors, pupils, teachers and other staff, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of childrens' work and attendance at four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of ESD was judged to be good with some outstanding features.

Achievement and standards

Standards and achievement in ESD are good.

- Children have a good general awareness of environmental issues.
- Children have a good knowledge of 'recycling' and 'reusing' principles.
- Children know simple principles of healthy eating, staying safe and the benefits of regular exercise.

## Quality of teaching and learning

Teaching and learning in ESD are good.

- Teachers make learning about ESD fun and exciting.
- Activities such as making Christmas decorations from scrap materials help reinforce simple principles of recycling.
- Teaching and mid day assistants make a valuable contribution to promoting ESD. Activities such the 'Trailblazers' initiative and lunchtime art clubs, which use scrap materials, are good examples.

## Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is good and has some outstanding aspects in the way activities are planned to cover aspects of national guidance on 'Every Child Matters' principles.

- The curriculum contains many opportunities to promote ESD principles, particularly in geography, science, design and technology and art and design.
- The school's PSHE programme is excellent and includes aspects such as developing cooperation, how to stay happy and the need to develop healthy lifestyles.
- The curriculum is enriched by including very good references to environmental education, often using the well designed outside areas.
- Children have an awareness of more distant places, but their deeper understanding of differences and similarities is more limited.

## Leadership and management of ESD

Leadership and management of this area are good.

- Although there is no overall policy in relation to ESD, the school's philosophy and ethos has promoted the sustainability agenda significantly. For example:
  - (i) All staff are sympathetic to ESD principles and have provided extra opportunities to promote them.
  - (ii) The views of both parents and pupils are taken seriously and acted upon when possible.
  - (iii) A good start has been made at reducing some energy use by using light sensors in some areas, but governors have not developed a clear policy on purchasing and overall energy use.

## Inclusion

The provision for inclusion is good.

- The welfare and well being of children is very high profile, guided closely by the principles of 'Every Child Matters'. This is supported by very good links with outside agencies and parents.
- Children with learning difficulties and disabilities make good progress due to the good teaching and careful monitoring of their developing skills.

## Areas for Improvement

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include the need to:

- develop a whole school policy for ESD to bring together the different elements that contribute good practice
- develop the governors' awareness of ESD relating to ethical purchasing arrangements and energy use within school
- consider developing more authentic overseas links with other schools to promote greater understanding of each others' cultures and localities
- consider making the school council membership more realistic by allowing classmates to nominate and elect the children that serve on it.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ESD in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Hodge  
Additional Inspector