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28 March 2007

Mrs V Neel
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Dear Mrs Neel

OFSTED MONITORING OF GRADE 3 SCHOOLS

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave me when I inspected your PRU on 22 March 2007, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. I would also like to thank the students for their courtesy and helpfulness and the representative of the local authority for meeting me.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 2 March 2006, the PRU was asked to: improve systems to clearly identify improvements in behaviour made by individual pupils; manage pupils' behaviour more consistently; and, improve accommodation to widen the range of curriculum activities offered to enhance the pupils' learning.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the PRU is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement.

Since the last inspection, the PRU has moved into different accommodation in another area of the city of Bristol. Good leadership and management have ensured that the best use has been made of the accommodation to widen the range of curriculum activities. The PRU now has facilities to offer science, art and food technology. The PRU has also improved curricular provision by extending the range of activities available in other locations, such as with the fire service, the Bristol Activity Centre, Bristol City College and local facilities for music technology and ecological awareness. These popular choices motivate and engage the students, providing them with a real context in which to develop important life skills. The curriculum is broad and appropriately supportive and challenging.

Classrooms in the PRU are attractive working areas with good displays which are valued by the students. The common areas of the building also contain interesting displays which reinforce healthy eating and living, celebrate the work of the students and provide them with information, advice and aspirations for their future. Another important development is that the PRU is able to offer a healthy cooked meal at lunchtime which is popular with staff and students alike. The atmosphere at lunchtime is calm and pleasant and students and staff enjoy eating and socialising together.

The move to different buildings has coincided with more stable staffing arrangements. Good leadership and management have ensured that there are common expectations of all staff and that they use established procedures for behaviour management well. The headteacher provides firm and clear leadership, emphasising the responsibility of everyone to deal with behaviour consistently and to follow established procedures for recording instances of good and unsatisfactory behaviour.

The PRU has modified the systems to track the behaviour of students which were in place at the time of the last inspection and has introduced new and effective measures to complement them. Behaviour plans for the students are now more specific and more regularly reviewed and this is monitored well by the senior team. The PRU analyses the students' progress against individual and group targets on a weekly basis and this enables staff to spot trends, intervene where necessary and identify improvements in behaviour. A sharper evaluation of attendance, exclusion and behaviour data is helping the school to modify its curriculum and measure the success of its actions well.

Since the inspection in March 2006, the rate of fixed term exclusion has declined and this trend is continuing. Although attendance remains below the national average, it is improving significantly and there are fewer instances of poor behaviour. The staff work hard and successfully to maintain a supportive working atmosphere to which the students respond positively.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Harrett
Her Majesty's Inspector