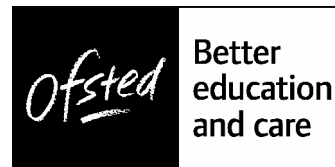


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29 September 2006

Mrs Carol Fearria
Headteacher
The Nottingham Emmanuel School
Coronation Avenue
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Dear Mrs Fearria

Ofsted subject inspection programme – Music

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 September 2006 to look at work in music.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on the extent to which every pupil was benefiting from your music provision. In particular, it sought to explore the links you may have developed with other schools and agencies, such as the local Music Service or other professional musicians, in order to improve continuity and increase opportunity for all your pupils.

Due to the particular circumstances of the school with the new head of department, I felt it inappropriate to conduct a full inspection visit and make judgements of a music department that was only three weeks old. However, I have noted that there were some weaknesses in the teaching which we discussed. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for you and me to visit lessons together, and to see how a recently appointed head of department was managing his new role and discuss the plans for the move to your new purpose built school in 2007/8.

The main points noted during the visit were:

- the new head of department has already made a positive impression on the pupils
- there is a need to involve pupils more in music making
- underachievement has been recognised. An appropriate and alternative NCFE level 2 Music Technology course has already started for identified lower attaining pupils in Year 11

- the Key Stage 3 schemes of work require updating to ensure that there is a clear progression of skills, knowledge and understanding through each unit; singing and the music of different cultures are currently under-represented
- the worship group in assembly should perform more regularly
- rock music is already a higher profile in the school and individual rock groups are receiving more support
- the links with outside music agencies should be built into the curriculum, rather than used as ad hoc enrichment events.

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

As I explained, 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

Clive Kempton HMI
Her Majesty's Inspector