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Miss R Bowers
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Dear Miss Bowers

Ofsted Survey Inspection Programme – The degree and effectiveness of parent and carer involvement in children and young people's education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, parents and pupils, during my visit on 18 January 2007 to look at the degree and effectiveness of parent and carer involvement in children's education.

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 staff, parents and pupils and scrutiny of relevant documentation. The judgements are specifically in relation to the degree and effectiveness of parent and carer involvement under the following headings.

The overall effectiveness of the degree and effectiveness of parent and carer involvement in children's education was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards including personal development

The impact of parental and carer involvement on achievement, standards and personal development is outstanding.

- Regular contact between school and families on matters of academic and pastoral concern ensure that the children make good progress.
- Parents fully understand and value the Christian ethos of the school and this plays an important part in creating a calm and purposeful school, which is tolerant, caring and promotes good behaviour effectively with explicit moral guidelines.
- The school works well with parents to ensure that attendance is above average with no unauthorised absence.
- Parents have full confidence in the school's open door policy and know that they can contact the school with the assurance that their views and concerns will be listened to and addressed.
- Parents contribute well to the health and well-being of the pupils, supporting healthy eating initiatives, sporting events and the school swimming pool. The parents play an important part in ensuring that children are well prepared for their future economic well-being. The children have many opportunities to work alongside adults and to take responsibility.
- Parents are fully involved in the social and academic life of the school. They feel part of the school community and make an outstanding contribution to the life of the school.

Quality of teaching and learning including assessment, support and guidance

The impact of parent and carer involvement in these areas is outstanding.

- A high proportion of parents help in classrooms and in a wide range of ways. They share their expertise with the children willingly and effectively and also undertake more routine tasks that free up teachers and teaching assistants so they can concentrate on teaching and learning. This gives children confidence and an understanding of the how their education links to their home life, and improves the parents' understanding of the life of the school.
- The outstanding school website has an excellent parents' area with exemplary material to help parents in supporting their children. This includes some material produced by children to explain modern methods in mathematics and aspects of literacy to enable them to help with homework more effectively.
- The policy of welcoming parents into the reception class each morning to share work with their children establishes a good link between school and parents in helping pupils to progress with their work.
- Parents understand their children's targets and get excellent advice on how to help their children achieve them.

Quality of the curriculum

The impact of parental involvement on the quality of the curriculum is outstanding.

- Parents make an excellent contribution to the curriculum, both within subjects and in their support of extracurricular activities.
- The school is very successful at identifying the parents' skills, talents and interests and using these for the benefit of all the children. Recent talks and activities led by parents have included: India, Africa, drama, cycling, dentistry, birds of prey, how the pig's heart works and reflexology. The children speak about these events with pride and enthusiasm and an obvious improvement in their understanding.
- Parents also make an important contribution to the cultural life of the school through music and to the health of the pupils by taking swimming classes.

Leadership and management of parent and carer involvement

Leadership and management in relation to parental involvement are outstanding.

- Your excellent leadership and management of parent and carer involvement have sustained and nurtured the outstanding contribution of parents to the school and a sense of the school as being at the heart of the community.
- Strategic planning for parent and carer involvement is good. Impact is evaluated regularly and plans modified accordingly.
- Parents have confidence in the genuine partnership between them and the school.
- The school consults parents regularly and the evaluation is shared with them effectively.

Inclusion

The impact of parent and carer involvement on inclusion is outstanding.

- In this caring and supportive school, the individual needs of children and families are addressed well.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- sharing the outstanding practice of the school more widely.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop parental involvement further in conjunction with raising attainment and improving outcomes for children.

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

Yours sincerely

Andrew Harrett
Her Majesty's Inspector