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Mrs J Gibbons
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Dear Mrs Gibbons

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 19 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; scrutiny of relevant documentation and observation of lessons. 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 good.

Achievement and standards including personal development

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

- The good impact of parental support, fostered and nurtured by the school, has a positive impact on standards. Pupils make good progress in their learning and standards are generally above average.
- The school has a clear ethos which values the role of parents and involves them in a partnership for the benefit of all the children. All the teaching and non-teaching staff share this so that parents have confidence in the whole school community. This has a positive impact on the behaviour and motivation of the children.
- Parents speak very highly of the school's open door policy and the partnerships that they develop with the school.
- The policy of welcoming all parents into classrooms at the start of the day in all three year groups is unusual and effective: it enables parents to share work with the children; increases the parents' confidence and ability to help their children; enables parents to talk to teachers informally and effectively; and gives the children a sense of security and confidence in education, seeing it valued and shared by the parents.
- The recent 'Stay to Play' initiative provides the pupils and their younger siblings with a safe environment while their parents benefit from a range of activities designed to help them to support their children at home and at school is an interesting and worthwhile development.
- Induction arrangements are very good.
- Attendance remains an issue for the school. Although there have been recent improvements it is below average overall. The school is working hard to address this area in conjunction with the local authority and this is beginning to have a positive impact.

Quality of teaching and learning including assessment, support and guidance

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

- The use of the home/school reading diary provides a good link and is used well to help parents to know how to support their children well. The close morning links with parents are spoken of highly by parents who particularly value the practical tips that they get from teachers about how to help with their children with their work.
- All classrooms have parents' noticeboards which provide clear information about the topics being covered in class.
- Although the parents get good information about how to help their children with their learning on request on an individual basis and the school provides a good level of information about the topics covered in classrooms, it does not provide the same degree of information to all parents about how they can help their children with their learning.
- Target setting is clear and simply expressed so that parents know what targets are and can monitor them.

- Consultation evenings are well supported, but parents particularly value the day-to-day contact with teachers and the readiness of the school to provide individual support and guidance.
- The school website has information for parents about the curriculum.

Quality of the curriculum

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

- A particularly good development is the work being done by the school to involve grandparents in the children's education.
- The school issues a regular curriculum newsletter and there is information about the topics covered on the school website.
- Parents regularly help in classrooms across the school and in the running of clubs.

Leadership and management of parent and carer involvement

Leadership and management in relation to parental involvement are good.

- The impact of leadership and management in this area is good with some outstanding features.
- You provide very good leadership. Your expectations are clear and shared by all the staff. Your commitment to working in partnership with the community is valued by all concerned and makes a positive difference to the children's well-being and achievement.
- Parents are regularly consulted and their views are carefully evaluated. You explain your response to their suggestions and concerns clearly.
- Through organising fund raising events and serving well on the governing body, parents make a positive contribution.

Inclusion

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

- There are good links with the families of children with learning difficulties and disabilities who have confidence in the school.
- The growing number of families who do not speak English as a first language are well supported by the school.
- Families experiencing personal difficulties are treated with compassion and given support.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- improving attendance throughout the school

- exploring ways to improve the ability of all the parents to assist children with their learning.

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