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Mrs J Goodfellow
Headteacher
Dunston Riverside Community Primary School
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Tyne and Wear
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Dear Mrs Goodfellow

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in poetry

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 12 July 2007 to look at work in poetry.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of one lesson.

Features of good practice observed

- Outstanding subject leadership from a knowledgeable and enthusiastic coordinator has had a significant impact on provision for poetry throughout the school.
- You have provided very good support for the subject leader ensuring that poetry retains a high profile in the school.
- The school has put in place a detailed and well planned programme that ensures that pupils read a wide range of poetry.
- Guidance provided includes detailed criteria for assessing different kinds of poems; this helps teachers to plan provision and enables pupils to evaluate their own work.
- The school has made very good use of competitions to encourage both reading and writing of poetry.
- As a result of good teaching, pupils in the school enjoy work on poetry and many produce writing of high quality.

- Teachers intervene helpfully in pupils' poetry writing, providing comments that enable pupils to improve and redraft their work.

Areas for development

- The school should review its provision for pupils to read poems from other cultures.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop poetry 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

Philip Jarrett HMI
Subject Adviser for English