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Ms S E Lawrence  
Headteacher  
St Mary's C of E Primary School  
Garnet Road  
London  
NW10 9JA

Dear Ms Lawrence

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in English

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 19 May to look at work in English.

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: observation of four lessons, discussions with staff and pupils, and scrutiny of documentation and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- Pupils achieve well and make good progress despite high levels of disadvantage.
- English is ably led and teamwork is strong. The management team demonstrate strong strategic competence, infectious enthusiasm and a clear sense of direction for English.
- The school is highly self-critical in that all aspects of provision are evaluated systematically to secure optimum progress for pupils.
- Good provision for professional development includes all staff and links explicitly to the outcomes from evaluation.
- Improvement planning is well considered, although the literacy action plan has gaps in the identification of learning outcomes for pupils.
- Regular assessment and meticulous analysis and use of comprehensive performance data, including a wide range of benchmarking data and other management information, tracks pupils' progress effectively and informs prompt and precisely targeted action for those who underachieve.

- An exceptional range of judicious, innovative and creative interventions that reflect good investment in support staffing and a range of strong partnerships, including with the local authority, accelerate progress and close gaps in learning.
- The curriculum for English takes good account of the wide-ranging backgrounds of pupils, promotes inclusion very strongly and secures progression.
- Teaching of good quality secures good achievement and displays in classrooms and around the school provide models of high quality work. Lessons are planned and differentiated very well and delivered with enthusiasm. Well sequenced, well resourced and interesting activities, including good use of ICT, challenge and motivate pupils. Learning is fun and promotes independence strongly.
- Pupils respond very positively to work in English. They praise highly supportive teaching, good provision for speaking and listening, enjoyable activities, clear targets and good opportunities to evaluate their learning as significant factors in increased confidence and good progress.

#### Areas for development

- Identify learning outcomes for pupils in the literacy action plan.

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

As I explained previously, 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

Rosemary Matthews  
Her Majesty's Inspector