

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



07 July 2008

Ms C Brett
Headteacher
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
Queen's Road
Richmond
London
TW10 6HN

Dear Ms Brett

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in English

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 07 July 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: discussions with staff and pupils, and scrutiny of documentation and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- Outstanding leadership contributes significantly to excellent achievement and exceptionally high standards. Strategic capability is very strong, as is scrutiny by governors. The school is highly self-critical and priorities for further improvement are known by all. Accurate self-evaluation is informed by rigorous and searching analysis of performance data and systematic monitoring that leads to precisely targeted professional development for teaching and support staff. Detailed pupil tracking and performance management are used very effectively to hold staff to account.
- The curriculum is outstanding in its range and breadth. It is planned and resourced carefully to secure progression. It is varied, practical and relevant, informed by the views of pupils very well, and enriched through numerous extension activities. Parents are closely involved in supporting learning. Independent learning is promoted strongly. Oracy is a very strong feature of provision and very good links with other subjects provide excellent opportunities to apply and develop reading and writing skills. A literacy-rich environment and interesting displays

of high quality are used very well to extend and reinforce learning, as is very well considered homework.

- High quality teaching and effective learning is given the highest priority. Assessment information is systematically used to plan well structured and sequenced lessons that meet pupils' needs extremely well. Consistently good and outstanding teaching uses questioning effectively to challenge pupils consistently to explain and develop their ideas.
- Individual needs are identified early and addressed quickly through effectively differentiated tasks, good targeted support and individual education plans. Where intervention programmes are used, they are carefully modified to address specific needs. Support staff contribute significantly to learning.
- Pupils enjoy English. They are very clear about how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve further through well established target setting, effective ongoing feedback in lessons and excellent opportunities for self and peer assessment. Marking consistently informs pupils about how to improve, notably in time allocated for pupils to reflect and act on written comments and to discuss their work.

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