

16 July 2008

Mrs Y Watts
Headteacher
Welton C of E Primary School
Well Lane
Welton
Daventry
NN11 2JZ

Dear Mrs Watts

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in English

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 14 July 2008 to look at work in English, particularly the curriculum and teachers' planning.

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 and visits to lessons.

Features of good practice observed

- Teachers are very enthusiastic and committed to fostering pupils' learning and to making it memorable. You encourage an integrated approach to the curriculum and flexible planning of lessons. Teachers regularly discuss what works well and share effective practice.
- The curriculum is mapped carefully for each mixed-age class within overarching themes, ensuring that the resulting plans fulfil National Curriculum requirements. Teachers are given the scope to link subjects as appropriate but also concentrate on meeting the needs of the pupils. As a result, literacy is constantly in focus. Teachers readily take opportunities to consolidate pupils' skills and extend their understanding through writing or reading tasks arising from thematic work. They have high expectations of pupils' participation and quality of work.
- There is a strong, common agreement across the staff that the curriculum should ensure that pupils learn what they need to know and how to improve. Assessment always informs teachers' planning and teachers ensure that pupils have sufficient time to consolidate their learning.
- Teachers plan using different formats but learning objectives are always detailed and clear. Plans are flexible and teachers constantly assess pupils'

understanding and progress, adjusting activities accordingly. Teachers link the key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. On occasions, pupils' interest takes them beyond the original intention in teachers' plans. Pupils appreciate this approach to learning.

- Teachers plan carefully to give pupils independence in their learning and to offer them choices where possible. They accept that pupils need to have opportunities to discuss their work in pairs or small groups. They manage the different pace of work and the fact that sometimes pupils may produce work in different forms. This is seen as a positive feature of the planning rather than an obstacle.
- Pupils enjoy learning using different approaches. They organise themselves well and use opportunities for discussion and research constructively. They enjoy using drama methods such as role play or hot seating. They are confident users of computers for writing and presentations. They analyse film and other media as well as text.
- Pupils assess their own work and that of their peers confidently. They are used to reflecting on what they have written and to checking their work carefully. Pupils know their targets and what they need to improve. They understand how teachers mark their work and value the feedback they receive.
- Teachers extend the curriculum through trips, events and visitors whenever possible, using specific opportunities which arise through 'one-off' circumstances very well. Pupils benefit from the stimulus and experience provided by theme days, trips to local attractions, visiting theatre groups and authors. They presented work arising from these occasions with justifiable pride.

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

Martin Cragg
Her Majesty's Inspector