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Ms P Harmer
Headteacher
Thorpe Hesley Junior School
Upper Wortley Road
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S61 2PL

Dear Ms Harmer

Ofsted survey inspection programme: evaluation of Rotherham
Ready enterprise initiative (good practice visit)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit to your school with Marcia Headon HMI on 17 June 2008 to look at work in enterprise 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 without their consent.

The visit included observations of lessons, discussions with pupils and staff and a review of documentation and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- Pupils' outstanding personal development.
- The excellent leadership and management of enterprise education, which is seen as being central to the school's ethos.
- The willingness of teachers to be creative and take calculated risks and the encouragement they give to pupils to do the same.
- The ability of pupils to apply their skills in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) to new tasks and challenges, including a range of business-related contexts.
- Pupils' outstanding progress towards becoming independent learners.
- The excellent opportunities provided for pupils to take on responsibility within the school, develop collaborative skills and engage in teamwork.
- The use made throughout the curriculum to capitalise on opportunities to help pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of important global, environmental and ethical issues.
- Pupils' extensive involvement in raising funds for charity which helps them develop their creative and problem-solving skills.

- The wide range of strategies, including links with local employers, to increase the knowledge and understanding of teachers and pupils of the world of work.
- The opportunities provided, for example through the school council, for pupils to apply democratic processes and contribute to developments in the school and the wider community.
- The very good opportunities for pupils to develop their financial capability.

The area for further improvement, which we discussed:

- identifying the intended learning outcomes pupils are expected to acquire from enterprise education as they move through the school and track their progress in achieving these.

I hope these observations are useful for the future development of work in this area.

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

Vic Chivers
Her Majesty's Inspector

