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12 November 2008

Mr M Whitfield  
Headteacher  
Meltham Moor Primary School  
Birmingham Lane  
Meltham  
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Dear Mr Whitfield

### Ofsted survey inspection programme – Design and Technology

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 22 October 2008 to look at work in Design and Technology (D&T).

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included interviews with staff and learners, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of D&T work in lessons.

The overall effectiveness of D&T was judged to be good with outstanding features.

### Achievement and standards in D&T

Achievement is good and standards are above average.

- Pupils make good progress across a full range of practical activities using food, textiles, wood, clay, systems and control. They start at the school with average and sometimes below average skills in D&T. Younger pupils achieve well in the foundation stage where D&T activities are carefully structured to quickly develop practical skills.
- Pupils in Key Stage one use equipment with precision and accuracy, for example when designing and making puppets. They make similarly good progress across key stage two and standards are above average by the time they leave in Year 6. Pupils' capability to make is more advanced than ability to design and innovate and the school is aware

this is an area to develop in order to maintain the momentum of improvement in the subject.

### Quality of teaching and learning of D&T

The quality of teaching and learning in D&T is good with outstanding features.

- D&T teaching is lively, creative and teachers are enthusiastic supporters of the subject. The level of challenge provided by teachers is well matched to pupils' needs and interests. Subject knowledge of staff is very good and quality materials are used well when designing and making.
- The quality of teaching and learning is consistently good across the year groups and high quality school planning makes sure D&T continues to improve. An outstanding feature is the excellent level of individual support from staff and adult helpers who work closely as a team to deliver the subject.

### Quality of the D&T curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is good.

- There is a good range of D&T activities to hold pupils interest, for example designing and making puppets in Year 2, torches in Year 4, and adventure playgrounds in Year 6.
- Programmes use qualifications and curriculum authority (QCA) units and other resources to meet pupils' needs well. There is a good range of tools, components, and equipment available for pupils to use.
- The coverage and reinforcement of technical vocabulary and subject knowledge across the year groups is a strength. The involvement of parents and carers in D&T work is very good.

### Leadership and management of D&T

Leadership and management of the subject are good with outstanding features.

The school monitors the performance of the subject and there is a substantial track record of accurate D&T self evaluation which is an outstanding feature. Plans for future development and improvement are clear and realistic.

The nature and purpose of D&T is well understood by staff. A strong team ethos supports learning in D&T and staff translate the purpose of D&T education and practice very well.

The extent to which inequality and stereotyping are tackled in D&T:

Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make equally good progress in D&T, as do boys and girls.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- extending capability to design and innovate.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop D&T in the school.

As explained in the 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

Paul Hancock  
Her Majesty's Inspector