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Mr G Stapleton  
Headteacher  
Graveney School  
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Dear Mr Stapleton

Ofsted survey inspection programme: the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

Thank you for meeting with me on Monday 6 October 2008 so that I could hear about the work of your school and the Pupil Support Centre (PSC) in relation to the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion.

The meeting was very useful because you were able to describe and evaluate the role of the PSC, though no pupil has as yet been placed there from your school.

As there were no pupils in the PSC on the day I visited, I was not able to make a full assessment of its work. However, it is clear from what you and two other headteachers have told me that the centre has been carefully set up by the partnership of secondary headteachers, and has their positive support. The local authority has helped schools well to realise this provision, which meets the requirement to provide full-time education from day 6 of a fixed-term exclusion. The centre is well managed, and much has been done to refurbish its new premises since it re-opened on its present site in April 2008. It has good admission and assessment procedures. The fact that only three pupils from the borough have been placed there for an exclusion of over 6 days since it re-opened confirms that such fixed-term exclusions have greatly reduced. This gives the partnership the opportunity to review the use of the centre and to consider making use of its services for exclusions of a shorter period, or further to support schools in preventing them.

You were also most helpful in describing what the school had done to reduce the need to exclude pupils on a fixed-term basis for more than five days. These things included:

- the continuing work of the 'Discovery' programme, with the support of a qualified counsellor to help pupils find out more about themselves and to work in small groups with a focus on behaviour and attitudes, throughout the school
- the work of the pastoral system and the department for learning difficulties and disabilities, and
- the recent development of a unit within the school to support and improve behaviour and help pupils at risk of exclusion.

The visit will provide much useful evidence for our survey. Thank you once again for your co-operation in helping me gain an insight into the work of your school and the PSC.

Graveney School will not be named in any publication without your permission. Most evidence will be used at a general level to ascertain if schools and local authorities are complying with legislation and to identify the quality and extent of their provision.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Martin Pavey  
Additional Inspector