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Mrs L Bowles
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Bowles

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during our recent visit. We are particularly grateful to you and all your staff for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up your time during the visit to meet us. Please pass on our thanks to all those concerned, including your children and pupils.

The visit provided much useful evidence for the further development of community cohesion. We noted, in particular:

- The impact of the curriculum. Through the amendments you have made to ensure that the curriculum captures pupils' interests and reflects their cultural heritage, the range and breadth of wider curricular provision and the targeted provision and support for groups such as those of African or Pakistani heritage, the curriculum engages and enthuses pupils. Those we spoke to were overwhelmingly positive about school. In particular, they spoke eloquently about their PSHCE lessons and their developing understanding about rights and responsibilities. This clearly points to them developing very well as young citizens.
- The work of the children's centre. Its remit, focused on developing partnerships with, and services for, the community is allowing it to reach out to groups which are considered "harder to reach", such as families with children potentially at risk of becoming NEETs.
- The staff of both settings work together extremely well, are a committed and united team and the multi agency partnerships are developing well. As a result, there is a growing understanding of community needs and aspirations, which allows the settings to target resources more effectively.

We suggested the following point for your consideration:

- Sharpen the analysis of pupil level data to ensure you consider all factors, and combinations of factors, when seeking to identify the causes of underachievement of groups. For example, at times it may be worth considering the group of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) as a separate group or looking at FSM in combination with other factors.

The published survey report will list the names of the contributing institutions in an appendix. Should we wish to cite specific aspects of the good practice observed on this visit in the form of a detailed case study, we will contact you first. We will notify you of the date of publication of the survey report when it is confirmed and provide you with details of any other arrangements to disseminate the survey's findings.

Yours sincerely

Angela Westington
Her Majesty's Inspector