

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404045
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@Ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



04 December 2008

Mrs V Bishop
Sir Christopher Hatton School
The Pyghtle
Wellingborough
Northamptonshire
NN8 4RP

Dear Mrs Bishop

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

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation and that of your colleagues during my visit to Sir Christopher Hatton School on Tuesday 4 November 2008 to look at the work of your school in relation to the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion. I would be grateful if you would pass my thanks also to the young people with whom I met.

Since September 2008 the school has adopted a policy of not excluding pupils for more than 5 days. However during the academic year 2007/08, three pupils were excluded for more than 5 days but the provision made for them did not comply with requirements.

The visit was helpful in enabling me to understand the strategies you are introducing to improve learning and behaviour and reduce exclusions overall. The following points summarise my findings from our discussions, data and document review and conversations with parents and pupils.

- Provision made for the three pupils excluded for more than 5 days in 2007/08 did not meet the statutory requirements.
- The school has a clear commitment to promoting the engagement of pupils through a focus on behaviour for learning.
- Flexibilities in the Key Stage 4 curriculum are used well to maintain engagement and meet individual needs.
- A good range of strategies to avoid exclusions is having an impact on reducing permanent and longer term exclusions. This impact is not yet evident in the number of fixed term exclusions.
- The geographical location of the school causes some difficulties in accessing support for more challenging pupils and provision for day 6 excluded pupils has not been developed in the town.
- Pupils returning from exclusion are provided with a good range of support.

Exclusions of pupils with special educational needs are high. In particular, pupils with statements have been permanently excluded which is not acceptable. The school has recognised this and is starting to address the issue. No minority ethnic group is over-represented in exclusion figures and no looked after children have been excluded at all. Pupils receive good support for re-integration after exclusions.

Improvements that we discussed included:

- continue to develop partnership working in the area with a view to making arrangements for pupils excluded for more than five days which meet the requirements of the DCSF
- use the statementing and re-assessment process if a pupil with a statement is showing signs of disengagement and the placement looks inappropriate.

The visit will provide much useful evidence for our survey.

Sir Christopher Hatton 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.

Thank you once again for your co-operation and the work you put in before hand and on the day to help me gain a good insight into the work of your school.

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.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A E Wade
Her Majesty's Inspector