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Mr N Wilson
Headteacher
Newall Green High School
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Dear Mr Wilson

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 Newall Green High School on 04 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 person with whom I met.

During my visit I gathered evidence from discussions with you and a range of members of staff and from scrutiny of documents. I talked with a pupil who had been excluded for more than five days prior to September 2007. Since, at the time of my visit, no pupils were currently experiencing day 6 provision I was unable to see this at first hand. Since September 2007 you have not excluded any pupils for a fixed term longer than five days.

It was clear from our discussions that your day 6 arrangements meet requirements. The school fully understands that it must ensure that pupils receive, off-site, suitable and full-time education from day 6 of fixed term exclusion. In case it is needed you have on file the text of the standard letter that informs parents of pupils excluded for six days or more that their children must remain at home for the first five days of the exclusion and attend daily at a Centre decided by the school for the remainder of it. While you do not anticipate that any fixed term exclusions made by the school in future will be for more than five days you have arrangements with partner schools to make day 6 provision if required.

You acknowledge that the local authority has kept schools informed about day 6 requirements and that a protocol to ensure that the authority is immediately informed of exclusions is now in place. However you do not feel that the

authority has taken a strong lead in promoting partnerships between schools to set up reciprocal day 6 arrangements. The school has made its own arrangements without local authority help.

Presently, when pupils return to school after short fixed term exclusions re-integration meetings are properly held and individual arrangements, including pastoral guidance and curriculum revisions, are put in place to help them re-settle into school and avoid further difficulties. These arrangements are good and would be used should there be any longer term exclusions in the future.

The school gives the highest priority to ensuring that all its pupils get the best possible start by remaining in school. There has been one permanent exclusion during the past two years. Following a change to a more rigorous behaviour policy in 2007/8, fixed term exclusions almost doubled but now they have returned to their previous rate.

The work undertaken by the school to reduce exclusion is very thorough. Pupils at risk of exclusion are identified early and they and often their families are supported by the extensive multi-agency team the school provides. The commitment of mentors, teaching and professional support staff to pupils and their families is exceptional. The local authority has asked the school to host an inclusion unit for pupils drawn from the broad area of the school who are at risk of exclusion. The school has interesting and imaginative ideas about the character of such a unit and the nature of the curriculum it should provide.

The pupil with whom I spoke did not enjoy being excluded. He missed daily interaction with his friends and with some of his teachers. While he made no claim to have completely conquered the difficulties he has in controlling his temper he believes he has more self-control than he did. In this case fixed term exclusion seems to have had a positive effect.

The visit will provide much useful evidence for our survey.

Newall Green High 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.

Yours sincerely

Michael McDowell
Additional Inspector