

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



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Mr S Flavin
Headteacher
Churchfields School
Salcombe Grove
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN3 1HQ

Dear Mr Flavin

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

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 25 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.

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 you and three senior colleagues and scrutiny of relevant documentation. My judgements are related to the arrangements and outcomes for pupils whose exclusions meant you had to provide education for them from day 6 of their exclusions.

During the last academic year, one pupil was excluded for a fixed term greater than 5 days.

From September 2007 maintained schools are required to provide full-time education from and including the sixth day of any fixed period of exclusion of six days or longer. This should be provided off site, unless the excluding school hosts shared provision with a number of different schools. Churchfields School does not host shared provision and is therefore not complying with the regulations.

Achievement and standards of pupils from day 6 of exclusion

You have reported that the pupil with a fixed term exclusion of more than five days returned to school on day 6 of his exclusion to attend the school's Inclusion Centre and did not join with his class. He continued to attend the Inclusion Centre for each remaining day of his exclusion. There can be no doubt that you provided full-time education for this pupil on day 6 and onward. You were persuasive in pointing out that attending the Inclusion Centre benefited his smooth return to school, and this was reflected in the good progress he made in his learning over their first days back.

Quality of teaching and learning for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

No lessons were observed.

Quality of the curriculum for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

The quality of the curriculum is good. The pupil is following a curriculum that matches well with his needs. He is gaining specialist support and advice and the effectiveness of this is clear from his better behaviour and his improved attitudes to school and to his work.

Leadership and management of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

You have ensured that the educational provision for the pupil excluded for more than 5 days was minimally disrupted as a consequence of his exclusion. But, you were at variance with the relevant regulations when you managed his return to Churchfields School via the Inclusion Centre.

Over the last few years Churchfields has seen a dramatic reduction in the total number exclusion days, and in the number of pupils being excluded. This is the result of developing and implementing initiatives and procedures that have been very effective in limiting the need to exclude pupils. The Inclusion Centre, the Grove Learning Centre, the good use of counsellors and learning mentors and the innovative Tranquillity and Stress Buster programmes combine to provide outstanding specialist support for pupils in their learning and in their development as young people; and to provide them with regular opportunities to clearly recognise the parameters that delineate acceptable behaviour.

Inclusion

Provision was tailored to the individual needs of the returning pupil and he gained from this in his learning and in dealing with the difficulties that contributed to his exclusion.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- remedying the breach of regulations.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop the day 6 provision in the 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

D. Alan Dobbins
Additional Inspector