

1 June 2009

Mr Chris Lloyd
Headteacher
Wolverdene Special School
22 Love Lane
Andover
SP10 2AF

Dear Mr Lloyd

Ofsted monitoring of schools with a notice to improve

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when Clare Davies SCI and I inspected your school on 13 May 2009, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please pass my thanks on to those pupils who shared their views with us and to the two boys who showed me round so well.

As a result of the inspection on 21 October 2008, the school was asked to:

- ensure that the school complies fully with current government requirements for safeguarding and that all recruitment procedures are in accordance with the national minimum standards (NMS 27)
- ensure that whole-school management systems promote the health, safety and well-being of all children
- sharpen the analysis and use of academic data to inform future planning.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that the school has made inadequate progress in addressing the points for improvement. This visit has raised very serious concerns about the standard of education provided by the school and I am recommending a return visit.

As a result of their difficulties, the academic standards that pupils reach are well below average. However, they make good progress in managing their own behaviour and in developing social skills and satisfactory academic progress.

The school does not yet comply fully with current government requirements for safeguarding. Steps taken to achieve this are inadequate in a number of areas. Recruitment procedures are not carried out in accordance with the national minimum standards.

Whole-school management systems promoting the health, safety and well-being of children are insufficiently rigorous and inadequately monitored by school leaders.

The school has made progress in the use of data to inform future planning. All students are assessed twice annually and their progress tracked through the year. This is not yet sufficiently developed to allow the school to identify areas of concern and plan appropriate intervention. Teachers do not use day-to-day assessment of pupils' learning to help plan lessons that are more closely focused on the individual learning needs of each pupil. This means that, while some in each class are appropriately challenged, there is too little challenge for others. Pupils are set both behavioural and academic targets through their individual education plans. The headteacher rightly recognises that the use of these plans needs to be developed to ensure that they support pupils' learning and social development properly.

The local authority has failed to secure the school's full compliance with current government requirements for safeguarding and ensure that all recruitment procedures are in accordance with the national minimum standards (NMS 27). The support brokered for the school has not been sufficiently robust to make sure that appropriate practices are adopted and maintained. Their monitoring has been insufficiently rigorous to identify areas of weakness.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Emma Ing
Her Majesty's Inspector