

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
www.ofsted.gov.uk



30 January 2009

Ms B Williams
Headteacher
Sydenham Girls School
Dartmouth Road
London
SE26 4RD

Dear Ms Williams

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my 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 me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned, including your students.

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

- Good attainment by different groups, including the gifted and talented, and good development of self-confidence, communication and advocacy skills
- Very good initiatives to promote tolerance, respect, shared values and open debate, including of sensitive and controversial issues such as homophobia
- The very good range of partnerships and collaboration on curriculum initiatives that promote social responsibility and community cohesion
- For future development: the school should extend links between federation partner schools for Years 10 and 11 and evaluate more rigorously the impact of SRCC initiatives on young people.

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

Fred Brown
Her Majesty's Inspector