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Mr A Kilcoyne
Headteacher
Mauldeth Road Primary School
Mauldeth Road
Withington
Manchester
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Dear Mr Kilcoyne

Ofsted survey inspection programme – good practice in literacy

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my recent visit to look at work in literacy.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: two lesson observations; observation of a one-to-one reading support session; discussion with you, your deputy and two members of your management team; a discussion with a small group of pupils; and examination of some of your school documentation.

Features of good practice observed

- You and your deputy ensure a very strong and clear focus on pupils' attainment in literacy.
- The monitoring of pupils' attainment is very good.
- The quality of teaching in literacy and in the one-to-one support that I observed was of a high order.
- The school places a premium on all pupils acquiring well-developed skills of handwriting, spelling, letter formation and presentation. These skills were evident in the pupils' books and on displays. They make a significant contribution to pupils' high volumes of work and productivity.
- The pupils I met spoke fulsomely about how much they enjoy writing and they could quote extensive sections from texts they had studied to develop their writing.

Areas for development

- We discussed the potential benefits of making staff more aware of the importance of syntax, grammar and parts of speech and how children develop and acquire such knowledge.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop literacy in the school.

As I explained previously, 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

Angela Westington
Her Majesty's Inspector