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22 October 2009

Mrs E Rodgers
Headteacher
Old Warren House School
Warren Road
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Suffolk
NR32 4QD

Dear Mrs Rodgers

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme – Girls' and young women's achievement

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 13 October 2009, to look at the causes of girls' and young women's underachievement and the long-term economic well-being and the good practice that effectively supports them.

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: discussions with senior leaders, staff and the Connexions service; observation of part of two lessons; discussions with three groups of girls and young women; feedback from local employers; and school documentation.

Overall, your work on promoting the achievement of girls and young women, and in developing their future economic well-being is outstanding.

The school has an excellent understanding of the diverse needs of pupils with a wide range of support needs. Its work with families, pupils and a range of agencies to sustain learning, development and well-being of pupils facing challenging circumstances is outstanding. The staff deliver high quality personalised programmes of learning, care and guidance to raise personal aspirations and encourage pupils to progress into further training.

Features of effective practice included the following:

- an exceptionally well-planned structure for each day with individual programmes to support pupils and raise personal aspirations, especially self-esteem for girls and young women
- very good care and safeguarding of pupils and partnership working with support agencies
- excellent partnerships with the Connexions service, local training providers and colleges of further education to support work related learning and progression
- excellent involvement with, and support for, parents and carers.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- continue to explore creative ways of improving attendance for the few pupils with poor attendance rates.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to promote achievement and develop the economic well-being of girls and young women in the school.

As I explained, 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

Jan Lloyd
Her Majesty's Inspector