

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



6 November 2009

Mr D Alston
Crescent Primary School
Pinewood Crescent
Meir
Stoke-on-Trent
ST3 6HZ

Dear Mr Alston

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in literacy

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 November 2009 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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included discussions with senior leaders and with the literacy and inclusion coordinators, meetings with pupils, analysis of school documentation and visits to five lessons.

Features of good practice observed

- You and other school leaders keep a sharp focus on strengthening teaching and raising standards in literacy within a broad curriculum that pupils describe as 'fun and exciting'.
- Each term, senior leaders and teachers review how well pupils are progressing in reading and writing. This ensures that they have a clear understanding of how effectively pupils are learning and leads to the early identification of any underachievement by pupils or groups.
- Teachers thread rich opportunities for speaking and listening into lessons and these are having a very positive impact on improving standards in writing. In the lessons observed, practical and creative activities triggered thoughtful discussions that helped pupils shape their ideas before any written work or oral reports.
- Skilful questioning by teachers and teaching assistants extends learning for pupils of all abilities.

- In lessons and through marking, teachers provide encouragement and practical guidance on areas for improvement. Pupils recognise how this support helps them to become better readers and writers.
- Because of the good relationships, teachers are confident to take risks in their teaching. Pupils have opportunities to use cameras, computers, tape recorders and the interactive whiteboard when recording and presenting literacy work. For example, pupils record their responses to photographs to make talking books.

Areas for development

- We discussed the value of using activities across the curriculum to help pupils achieve and consolidate their literacy targets.

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

Anthony O'Malley
Her Majesty's Inspector