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Mrs S Sumpner
Headteacher
Low Road Primary and Nursery School
Belinda Street
Off Church Street
Leeds
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Dear Mrs Sumpner

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Raising aspirations and achievement: the power of partnership

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 13 October 2009, to look at your partnership with higher education.

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, the chair of the governing body and a telephone conversation with the 'Kids@Uni' coordinator. I toured the school, observed five lessons, spoke to pupils and looked at documents including project evaluations and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- The school works actively and enthusiastically with a range of partners and the federation to raise pupils' aspirations. It makes every effort to improve outcomes in aspects of education which the school and parents could not otherwise provide.
- There is a clear focus on using visits and visitors to present pupils with a view of the world that is broader and different to their own. Professionals in the community and visitors from the world of work provide positive role models for pupils and encourage the self-confidence they need to engage with the wider world. Visits to institutions such as local council offices, the Houses of Parliament and museums are used well to expand pupils' imagination, creativity and general knowledge.

- The high quality learning environment and the excellent relationships between adults and pupils are key factors in raising pupils' aspirations. An ethos that conveys high expectations of achievement encourages pupils to recognise their worth as individuals, identify their talents and celebrate their achievement.
- The partnership with Education Leeds Aimhigher and Leeds Metropolitan University through 'Kids@Uni' is raising awareness of higher education for Year 6 pupils and their parents. The 'aspiration tree' is an excellent example of how the project has been personalised to benefit the whole school. In discussion, Year 6 pupils were able to demonstrate a developing knowledge of what going to university means and were keen to share their aspirations.

Areas for development

- Further evaluate the impact of partnership on improving outcomes for all pupils.
- Consider ways in which the outcomes of effective partnership working could be used to help pupils' transition to secondary education.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop partnerships in support of school improvement.

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

Anne Wellham
Her Majesty's Inspector