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Mrs L Pearson  
Headteacher  
Holywell Primary School  
Forge Lane  
Upchurch  
Sittingbourne  
ME9 7AE

Dear Mrs Pearson

Ofsted 2009-10 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 16 and 17 November 2009 to look at your partnership with schools.

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: interviews with you, the two assistant headteachers, the Chair of Governors, a local deputy headteacher, and the school improvement partner; and discussions with groups of pupils. I observed three lessons with you, listened to the school choir and looked at key documentation including photographic evidence.

Features of good practice observed

- As a result of your proactive, energetic leadership in recent years, your school has established an impressive range of partnerships with local schools, the community, higher-education providers, business and the private sector. Partnerships are central to the school's vision and ethos and all leaders, including governors, are highly committed to working with a wide range of partners to enrich the quality of educational provision for pupils.
- Working collaboratively with others, you have established a successful partnership between a small group of primary schools and a local secondary school. Pupils spoke enthusiastically about how they are benefiting from these links. The transition project is a positive initiative

which is helping pupils to settle quickly and happily into a feeder secondary school. The partnership work on improving 'pupil voice' is making a significant contribution to the development of this initiative; pupils feel their ideas and suggestions are valued by leaders.

- The good outreach work you are receiving from a school with specialist status in mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) is having a positive impact on pupils' achievement. Older pupils reported that the regular specialist mathematics teaching they receive helps them to learn 'in fun new ways'. The ICT notebooks, partially funded through this partnership, are an excellent resource and motivate the pupils to continue their learning at home. Year 6 pupils were using them very effectively and enthusiastically in their work on World War 2.
- Pupils and staff appreciate the many opportunities to work alongside specialist staff as a consequence of your diverse range of partnership work, most notably in modern foreign languages, music and physical education. The good teaching observed in these subjects is a fitting testament to the effectiveness of this work.
- Pupils are benefiting from the creative curriculum you have recently introduced. Activities are planned carefully and motivate the pupils to learn with high levels of enjoyment. All at the school value the partnerships established through the thoughtful, inclusive 'Well-being' project which has been recognised as excellent practice by the local authority.
- The range of enrichment activities offered to pupils is impressive. Your partnerships with the parish council and the Women's Institute are excellent examples of how the school places a high importance on promoting community cohesion. The good designs created by the pupils for a new library, to serve both the school and the community, are a result of innovative partnership working with a local architect and a building company.

#### Areas for development

- Although leaders thoughtfully evaluate the impact of partnerships on pupils' achievement, we agreed that this aspect could be strengthened further.

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 also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Mary Harlow  
Her Majesty's Inspector