

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



12 January 2010

Mr T Beesley
Headteacher
All Saints Catholic High School
Haslingden Road
Rawtenstall
Rossendale
BB4 6SJ

Dear Mr Beesley

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 14 December 2009 to look at the causes of girls' and young women's underachievement and 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 included: discussions with senior leaders and staff; observation of parts of two lessons; discussions with two groups of girls and young women; and a review of school documentation.

Overall, your work on promoting the achievement of girls' and young women, and in developing their future economic well-being is satisfactory. The attainment of girls is increasing. Older girls are especially positive about their experiences across the curriculum, particularly in mathematics. The school has identified that there is scope to further challenge girls in exploring non-stereotypical choices in courses and work-experience by extending the links with colleges and employers.

Features of effective practice

- Leaders and managers have a strong focus on assessment and monitoring of girls' progress and on developing teaching and learning to raise achievement.
- There is a good emphasis on girls' well-being, linked to the increasing coherence of the curriculum in relation to personal, social, health and economic education, including sex and relationship education.

- Vocational curriculum pathways are contributing well to the uptake of education, employment or training after Year 11. In 2009, all girls who left the school are now in education, employment or training.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- increasing the opportunities within the curriculum for girls to participate in enterprise activities and work-related learning
- extending the school's links with employers, through the use of visits and visitors who provide positive female role-models to further increase girls' aspirations
- extending girls' awareness and knowledge of workplace settings beyond the immediate locality.

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

Liz Godman
Additional inspector