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10 February 2010

Mr P Cronin
Headteacher
St Laurence's Catholic Primary School
Leaside Avenue
Southdene
Kirkby, Liverpool
Merseyside
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Dear Mr Cronin

Ofsted 2009/10 survey inspection programme: good practice in literacy

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils during my visit on 26 January 2010 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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with you and members of your staff; scrutiny of relevant documentation; discussion with a group of pupils; and observation of three part lessons.

Features of good practice

- The lessons I observed were of a very high quality. Key features of the lessons included: teachers' very high expectations of what pupils would achieve; pupils' very good behaviour; the excellent use of the interactive whiteboard and a range of other resources that captured the interest of pupils, especially boys; and the very strong focus on speaking and listening.
- There is excellent pastoral support for families and children at all stages of their partnership with the school. Through your excellent leadership and management, you ensure that all staff are determined that no child will be left out or left behind.
- You provide a wide range of extra curricular activities, at no cost to pupils and families, so that every child has the opportunity to succeed in activities beyond the academic.

There were no obvious areas for development.

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

Angela M Westington
Her Majesty's Inspector